

HELPMATE BULLETIN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OF THE

284TH F. A. BN. WWII

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Sept. 15

1998

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Greetings, Helpmates,

Pleasant autumn salutations. Many of you had a bad, bad summer, what with fires, too much water, too little water, too much heat, and all such. But this is another season, and things will get better. They have to, because they can't get any worse.

And another bad report came in just as I closed and printed the last issue. I received a letter from John Wasilewski, who reported the death of our Helpmate, Ed Wasilewski last January. He had "Lou Gehrig's disease, and had been bad for a long time. We had lost touch with Ed about 2 years ago, and his son (John) told me that he had moved to Mn at that time, and we had just not been able to locate him.

John is a judge in the Chicago area, and seemed very interested in finding out a little about the group which his dad had served with. I sent him my copy of "Helpmate Ready" to copy, and I told him that I would report his death, and if any of you knew Ed very well, possible you could reach him with the info.

John A. Wasilewski

7534 West Pottawatomoni Dr.

Palos Heights, Il. 60463-2028

He has a lot of his dad's pictures, and Ed put a lot of info on the backs of the pictures, and John will possibly share them with us if he has duplicates. It is surely nice to have the families of our buddies interested in what their dad experienced, because after we are gone, we're history. Thanks for the contact, John, and hang in there. You're always welcome at our stuff.

John is a judge in one of the courts around Cook County, as mentioned earlier.

The trip to Florida was one hot affair. They are having some difficulty with hot weather at this time, but it always seemed hot down there to me. My brother doesn't seem to mind the

extra heat, but it sure did feel uncomfortable to me. The West Coast group met in Zephyrhills on Tues., Aug. 18, and Charles and Margaret Cody, Bill and Marion Hartley, Ray and Marge Crismond, Jeep Rafeld and I had a great time at lunch. George and Dorothy had previous plans, and couldn't make it, but sent their regrets, and George has not been in touch with Moe and Janet lately, so possibly they are still in the north. Marion is recovering from some damage to her jaw or face from an accident last winter, but seems to be improving OK. Bill has been under care for a problem which seems to be well controlled, and he has a year away from his medical attachments. The Cody's do well, and are weathering the summer just fine. Jeep didn't see Ray drive in, so sat in the parking lot until the Hartley's got to the restaurant. We chatted, and ate, then ate and chatted for nearly 2 hours before our lunch broke up. They are all awaiting the 1998 reunion anxiously, and are planning having a good time at the function.

I enjoyed the long visit with Marge and Ray, and got thoroughly trounced at Mhingg but the master of the game, Ray. He got huge hands, and Marge and I just took our beatings not too graciously on Monday. Then on Tuesday, Marge took over, and the men got hit by that tornado. But I am trying to understand the game, and hopefully I may do better in the future. Mhingg is a card game which is based on the Chinese tile game, Mah Jongg, and is not unlike our rummy. By the way, if any of the group knows of anyplace where new decks of the game may be acquired, let Ray know. He has 2 decks, both of which are well used.

The Helpmates who live in the Tarpon Spgs. area have a new area code. Many of them will be using 727 as their future area code, so I will

try to get the phone #s correct when I put out a new roster.

George and Dorothy Ralcewich are going to make an extended trip to the California area the last of August, and into September. They have relatives in the west, and are going to pay them a visit at this time. I was sorry not to have seen them this visit, but what with car trouble, and some problems with my laptop computer, I had some time constraints which prevented the contact. Next time.

I tried twice to reach Martha Ellis. Her phone was busy (if I dialed the right #) on the 1st try, and then no answer a while later. Then on the way to Holiday, I go very near to where she lives, and I stopped by, but there was no car there, and that means that some of her pals have her in tow. But I will always try, and am pleasantly greeted by that nice lady often.

On Friday(21st) Jeep and I made our way to the China Jade eatery, and pigged out there. I pigged out, and Jeep ate more sensibly. We had a nice visit, and will save some of the food and atmosphere for next trip.

When Hurricane Bonnie started acting up, I got a call from daughter Nancy, who told me that the flights were beginning to look fullish, so I came back to St. Louis a day or so before I had planned. But I guess I was ready. Never really like to leave, tho.

John Ehmen, Sr. has a new address:

503 S. 6th St.,
Oregon, IL 51051-1901

Warren Lunsford also relocated to:

599 N. Louisiana Ave. Lot 112
Asheville NC 28806-3776

Cyril MAHALK Moved, left no address.

I received a letter from Bob Rosen which contained a kitty donation. His firm has recently purchased another decorating business, and helped do the deal. It was a very big firm, one which had been in operation for 40+ years. Bob tells me that in Feb. '99 he will have been 50 years in the decorating business.

Sumiko lost her older sister to cancer 7 years ago, and now her only other sister is terminal suffering from leukemia. She makes trips to Japan frequently to visit, and help with her care. Bob tells me that the care at the

hospital is left to Sumiko quite a lot, and she is able to stay there, but sleeps on a mat on the floor in her sister's room. Family relationships are apparently closer in Japan, and Bob is glad that Sumiko is helping in the care of the sister.

Thanks a lot for the letter, Bob. And the donation will have a place for use in the near future. Our best to Sumiko regarding the illness of her sister.

By the way, I have no way of cashing the kitty checks if they are written to "Helpmate". I have been hassled terribly by the bank, and I know that they are probably telling me the facts when they don't want to cash them. So those of you who are donating to the kitty, make the checks payable to me, and I will be able to apply the proceeds to the kitty fund.

Bud DeFeo also had a letter waiting for me on my return. He admits to some procrastination, and the tendency for his Latin Blood to put off until next week what should have been done yesterday, but I am glad to have him in touch with me at last. He and Jean are both in good health, and have had a busy year. They visited with his brother in Cape Coral last winter, and in the spring they visited their money in several of the Indian Casinos in the Florida area. Then to Busch Gardens before homeward bound. Then to Atlantic City, where he again visited his dough.

In April, he concocted a surprise birthday party for Jean (a small one - just over 100 people), from both families.

They took a trip back to Cancun, where Jean had been injured previously, and this time no problems occurred.

He and Jean registered for the reunion, and after that affair, he will go to Lady Lake for a while, then back to Cape Coral to begin the cycle again.

Thanks for the letter, Bud, and for the donation to the kitty. It will be good to see you and Jean after so long a time. See you in October.

Talked to Clair Schneider on the 30th. He tells me that several people will not be able to make it, including #1. Various things have come up, and this will interfere greatly with their plans to attend. I surely hated to hear about our losses, but we must know that not

all of our plans become viable. Several family matters are putting the bee on him for this reunion, and I certainly understand the problem.

We talked about Obecny, Al Pavlick, Hawkie, and various other Helpmate members, and decided that we are a very compatible bunch of guys. Clair is an avid reader, and tells me to get this book, or that one, and he should know that a library would fall down if I entered the door. He likes to keep his finger on the pulse of public opinion, believe me.

His health has been good, and staying good. No unusual problems have surfaced, and he maintains a good physical and mental status.

Thanks for the call, Clair. Sorry not to be seeing you in October.

Bob Mielke from Ironwood, Mi. sends a letter about the 23rd. He and Helen are generally in good physical condition, but do not like to travel to congested areas much. They visit the relatives in Michigan, and family in Wisconsin, but stay away from areas which demand close attention to driving. They have asked me to put in an open invitation to any of the Helpmates who may find themselves in their area, to stop in for a friendly visit.

He paid special attention to my mention of Mrs. Lorene Althoff in the last newsletter. He remembers well the banter which occurred as John, Lorene's deceased hubby, hassled Bob about trying to steal Lorene away. He wonders if Lorene even remembers him anymore.

I am going to send Bob a new roster. He is of the opinion that he owes many of the members a note, and hopes to do just that.

Thanks for the letter, Bob. Try to make it to the reunion.

Which reminds me to let you know that with air fares in the low range, what is wrong with flying into Tampa, or St. Petersburg, or Clearwater, and catching a shuttle to Holiday. I know that one exists in Tampa, and I am sure that you could find out from your travel agent for the other cities. We would love to have all of the group there. I will await a note from Ray C. as to the makeup of the registered Helpmates. I know that you would enjoy the meeting, and we would like to get the best group possible to be attendees. It always makes for a better party if

lots of the group is there.

I have the list of Helpmates registered for the reunion as of 25 August. They are: Warren Ellis, George Ralcewich, Pat Meier, Donald Rigney, Harvey Smith, Charles Zimmer, Ray Crismond, JB Summers, and Ed Sheppard (Marge Crismond's Sister and Hubby). There will be more, and I will just report of the newer ones later in this letter.

I received a letter from John Ehmen Sr. in the recent mail. He had moved into his son's house, and since the two have the same name, He asked that I designate him John Sr. Glad to do so John. I have the same problem here with my own son. My phone number is unlisted, tho, so he gets all the phone calls from my public. He says he doesn't mind, and I do get to catch up on some of my old friends.

John has had several bouts with the surgeons. Earlier on he had a triple by-pass, and then had to have an aneurysm repaired, and his gall bladder removed. More recently he had a hernia repaired, one which became quite a big problem since it had been neglected. But he is doing well now. His rheumatoid arthritis is giving him fits, but he remains cheerful, and active.

Thank you very much for the kitty donation, John and Helen. It will be used. Try to make it to one of the reunions. You would enjoy it.

Got a call from Gen. Sanders today, and he has had some significant reverses medically. He and Beat are both not up to par, and he felt that he could not travel that far for either of their sakes, so it will have to be put on hold.

He has been under care pretty steadily for several months, and put on various high blood pressure medicines, and some blood thinners. He seems to be improving.

We will miss having the Gen. and Beat at the reunion, but we certainly do understand. We will try to place a call to you from the reunion, Gen., so keep by your phone on Thursday nite, Oct. 8.

Thanks for letting us know.

How about Mark McGwire? He has our whole town agog. Every time he comes up to bat they expect him to get a homer. One of the journalists asked him in a recent interview if he be-

lieved that his record in a recent game - a homer and three strikeouts satisfied him. He told the newslady that if he could do that for 164 games, he thought it would be satisfactory. I should think so. He seems to be a remarkable athlete. He was reported to be on a legal Rx which improved muscle healing, but not much has been made of it outside of St. Louis.

Labor day has descended upon us. It has gotten hot here, or hotter. All the kids were out, with several of their kids, so we had a nice group for the day. They all like to come out to the home place, because they can swim, and play on the Donkey Kong and Pachinko games which I have accumulated over the years. It is nice to have them here, but it is also nice to have them leave, and quiet returns. Guess I am getting old.

No recent mail, so am awaiting the final list of those planning to attend from Ray. He will be sending me that so I can get this issue out by the 15th of Sept. And I have just today (11th) got Ray's list of the expected Helpmates. I will repeat those I have listed earlier, so this is the complete list, to date.

Charles Cody	Warren Ellis
Robert Dammarell	George Ralcewich
Bud DeFeo	Pat Meier
Mel Donaldson	Donald Rigney
Al Grisham	Harvey Smith
Gilbert Mitchell	Charles Zimmer
Jerri Polson	Ray Crismond
Jeep Rafeld	J.B. Summers
Robert Rosen	Ed Sheppard **
William Stepanek	(**Marge Crismonds
Moe Sweetgall	Brother in law.)

As is the case, usually, there will be more to be added to this list, as some show up sort of unannounced, and we enjoy having them appear under any circumstance.

As I mentioned earlier, McGwire fever has hit hard here. Every program has it's praise and honor segment, and in my opinion, it is deserved. He has done much to reinstate the old fervor which baseball lost after the strike a few years ago. He seems to be a nice guy, and has been good for baseball at this time.

Until he was displaced by the report put out by the Special Prosecutor. Nothing but that on all the channels today. What a world we live in.

I guess nothing can be considered sacred anymore.

I am going to leave some space for last minute news, then close this issue of the Bulletin. Talk the reunion up with your friends, and let's get the last few members who are able to make the reunion. It is always refreshing to get a new attendee or two, so surprise Ray, and show up. We welcome that, so why not surprise us with your presence. There are several of the group in the nearby area who just might be able to make the meeting.

I just received another note from Helen Ehmen who replaced the kitty donation check with one made out to me. That now can be used for the benefit of our kitty. Banks are queer ones. They lend you money if you don't need it, and can prove it, and they never hesitate making you take out another account, if it will make them some dough.

So now, we close this issue. But not before I let you in on another of the internet stories.

It seems that a very professional thief had gotten into the home of a prosperous executive, and was doing well with his not so petty thievery. As he was stuffing his duffel bag with the available silver, coins, and other valuables, he heard a soft voice intone "Jesus is watching you." He looked around, saw nothing, and went to the next room for more loot.

Again the soft voice reminded him "Jesus is watching you still." Again he saw no one, and continued his work. After another reminder of the same nature, he started searching for the source of the warning. There, perched on the arm of a chair was a beautiful parrot. He had the urge to start a conversation with this harbinger of philosophy, so started by asking the parrot his name. "Socrates", the parrot replied. "Queer name for a parrot" he said. "Now who on earth would ever name a parrot Socrates". The parrot replied, "The same man who named his huge, not so forgiving, Rotweiler guard dog Jesus" was the reply,

And so to press. Have a good year, and do try to make it to the reunion.

As ever,

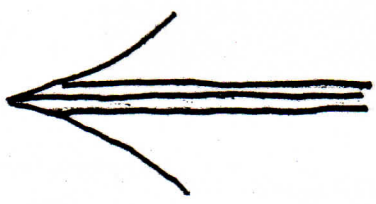
JBS

LATE NEWS.

GIB MITCHELL HAS BEEN ADVISED NOT TO TRAVEL, AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE AT THE RE-UNION.

HE IS BEING LIMITED IN HIS ACTIVITIES, AND WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ANY VISITORS WHO MAY BE IN THE VICINITY.

AL GRISHAM IS MY SOURCE FOR THIS LATE NEWS ITEM.



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EXTRA PERSON	\$ 5.00

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PHONE : # OF PERSONS: # OF NIGHTS :

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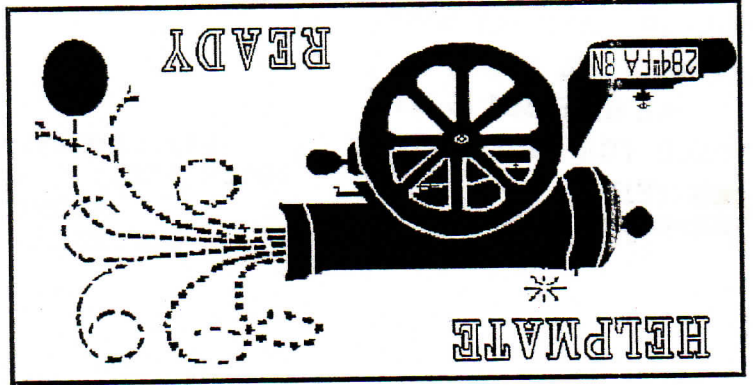
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1998 REUNION

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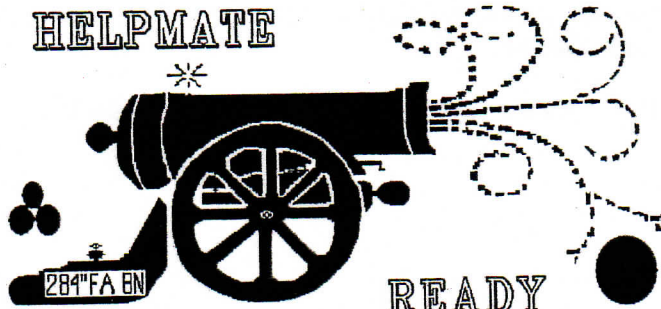


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