



# HELPMATE BULLETIN

## Official Newsletter

### of the

## 284th F. A. Bn. WWII

OCTOBER

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2005

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Greetings good friends,

Have had great luck with the last bulletin. No one was torn up, returned as undeliverable, or returned because addressee had died. Got it out on time, and the copier worked well with this issue.

I received a call from Charlie Zimmer a while back. He seemed to be well, and was getting along a little better with his medical problems. Ruth is still having problems with her back, but is under care.

He hates the fact that we have stopped the reunions. He enjoyed the gatherings, and still believes he could somehow make one in Florida. I agree with him on all that, but reunions with no one to reunite are sort of pointless. But we may surprise him, somehow.

Charlie's family is otherwise good, and one of his sons live at the family home, which is sort of nice for he and Ruth.

We have had several rainy spells in June and July, and it was really needed. We still are a few inches under normal, in spite of the deluge we seem to inherit.

I have been in touch with Irv Merrill in the recent past, and also with his daughter. The Merrills have relatives in St. Louis, and Irv wanted to revisit Iowa, his birthplace, while he could still have the good health to wander around. His daughter who lives very near him will accompany him, but his wife Ginnie will very likely not be able to be along. On the 16th of July I received a welcome call from the daughter, and they will be in St. Louis on the 6th and 7th of July, then travel to Iowa to his birthplace, then to Des Moines, and will go back to California from there. We will have the 2 days to visit, and would welcome anyone in the neighborhood to visit with us. My phone number is on every issue of the Bulletin, and a phone call or

an E-mail would get us in touch. There are several Helpmates in the area, but I never hear from any of them.

Bob Rosen sent a letter in mid-July. He enclosed a donation for the copy fund, and it was much appreciated.

Sumiko had to go to Japan on family business in early summer, so Bob went to his usual Caribbean haunts for several weeks. He enjoyed his kayaking, and his tennis games, but now only plays doubles, as the more strenuous singles game is getting out of reach. On his return, he picked up Sumiko at the local airport, and he is getting back to the real world again.

He does a little work at the business, but at present the renovation work at his home takes up much of his time. He has not made definite plans, but may decide to move to the Florida East Coast where relatives live. The big house is getting too much for Sumiko to handle, so relocating will probably be the order of the day for the Rosen's.

Thanks for the note, Bob. And thanks a lot for the donation.

Took all the kids for a few days in Vegas in late July. We all had a good time, but I did not even leave the hotel to explore a completely different Las Vegas than I knew. It is so different than before, and this time it was hot as, no hotter than the hinges of Hades. The food was so delicious, and copious, but is now super expensive. All of my old haunts were rebuilt, or replaced, but I still found that it is a good place to visit.

Son John and his wife extended their trip by going to the Grand Canyon, and Arizona. They are still looking for an ideal place to plant their bodies when they retire.

I had planned making a sort of business jaunt to Florida this week, but I got a late call from one of the legal people who are handling the probate process, and they will not be ready for my closing for about a month. So I had to cancel the project for now, and will go down in a month or so. I guess I will be rid of this mistake in a lifetime or two.

I received a phone call on the 27th from the Ralcewich family. Things go well in Riverview, Fl., and they are awaiting my coming down so that they can take me gambling, etc. Both are currently in good health, and other than making visits to the doctors, and staying out of trouble, the upcoming hurricanes are their big worries.

I talked with them about Marion Hartley, whom I believe has returned to PA to live. A daughter wanted them her to come to live near her, and I think that is what she was planning. George and Dorothy wanted to say HI to her, and I gave them the Florida phone number, which will do nothing for them, I fear.

They have found a place in Tampa where they can lose their money, and they want me to come down so that they may some of my dough. I will do just as soon as it seems that I may do some more of my necessary business down there. Thanks for the call, George & Dorothy. It livened my day.

One day recently Clair Schneider got together with me on the phone. We talked about everything you can imagine, but solved none of the world problems with this visit. He is doing well, as are his kids. His tomatoes are a lot nicer than mine, and his health has been great at this time. I passed the news about Irv Merrill coming over, and hoped maybe he could induce some of the Chicago tribe to come part way down toward Peoria, but he is pretty much out of contact with that group at this time. It is always good to pass some time with Clair. We solve nothing, no, NOTHING, but enjoy the time it takes to drop the world.

George and Virginia Ralcewich called me late last week, and we discussed the world as it exists. They are both doing well a this time, and was glad to hear that I would visit with them in a short time. They have locked themselves into a new casino in Tampa, and are anxious to let me see how well the Florida casinos pay off. I

am in on the know about how rich you leave most of the businesses, but I promised them that I would join them in a gambling venture when I came down.

As I said, they both are doing well at this time, but don't miss any of their doctor appointments. They inquired about Marion Hartley, and were not surprised to hear that she is now living up north. They miss seeing Marion on our little mini reunions.

And Bob Rosen gave me a call recently. He was chiefly interested in getting Chet Brownlee's grandson's name and phone number, as he had misplaced the one he had from the last reunion. He hates seeing the end of our yearly get-togethers, but understands the facts that we all are too old and unreliable to plan bit time gatherings at this time in our lives.

Bob has fallen out of contact with Lloyd Lage, and he hates this. B Battery used to be one of the most faithful of the group, but with the loss of Ruschmeyer, and others, they lost their important standing. Bob will go to the Caribbean again this winter, and maybe will try to make some connections while he is there.

I have heard nothing more from Clair, so am sure he could not find any of the Northern Illinois group who could meet our west coast connection this coming week. I certainly not surprised, but hoped that something with the Chicago group might work out.

Got an E-mail note from Harve and Ann Smith from their west coast digs. Things are going well there, and Smitty is taking in good stride the fact that they found an early lung problem in the spring. They had scheduled a trip to the East Coast, but that was replaced with a course of diagnosis, and a course of Chemo. They decided that the lesion was in the early stages, so 2 rounds of Chemo, then corrective surgery, should eradicate the problem.

His son has moved out to the west coast, and is working in Eugene at this time. He had not liked the climate in Pennsylvania, so got on the train, and called Smitty from Portland, and told him he needed a ride home. The Smith group is delighted by this turn of events.

Thanks for the news, Smitty. Keep up with

your therapy, and get well.

Pat Maier called today just to say HI. He is doing well up in he northwest, and knows that Smitty is up there, and will try to make the 1 hr. drive to see him.

The Maier's seem to be in good general health at this time, and getting along with the climate and the populace there. They have had a nice summer, and are thankful that they do not have the terrible tragedy which the Louisiana folks are bearing.

Thanks for the call, Pat. Do it some more.

Irv Merrill and his daughter came east to the Iowa area to visit old homesteads, and birthplaces. I had the pleasure of visiting with them for several hours at their hotel. Irv is looking good, is sharp as expected, and we spent all afternoon just talking. His wife, Virginia, travels poorly, so daughter came along for company. She was born during Irv's first year abroad, as he was winning the war in Europe. They have relatives in Clayton, so they had a nice visit with those people while here.

We talked about people we knew in our outfit most of the time. I filled him in on some of the things I knew. He has been very faithful in the attendance of our functions, and was sorry to hear that we plan no more reunion activity as a group.

The next day the Merrill's drove northward to Iowa for a visit to Muscatine, his birthplace, and thence to Des Moines, for a visit, then a flight home from there. It was so nice to see Irv, and visit with him for a while.

I have just gotten back from Florida, where I spent about 3 weeks doing my dull realty stuff. I got one of the mobile homes titles cleared up after a death, and will have to finally evict the big problem I have had with another mortgagee for many months. Maybe it will get cleared up this time. The lawyers down there drag their feet even more than their northern cousins, so I have no idea when this nightmare will finally get cleared up.

I visited several days with Ray and Marge, and won and lost at out card games. Ray is trying to get me started in my genealogy cruise, but it sure is hard to get into. Marge and Ray had a busy schedule the week I was there, but we visited a lot, and made plans for more.

When I started back to brother Gene's house, I stopped in to see the Ralcewich family, and visited several hours, went out for lunch, and we also played some Liverpool Rummy, with mixed results.

While I was there, I got Marion Hartley's new address, which is:

108 Rockey Lane Apt.# 30  
Montoursville, PA 17754

I did not get a phone #, but I hope Marion will send that to me.

George and Dorothy are doing well, are in good general health, and send greetings to all the Helpmates.

While I was there Hurricane Rita decided to make a call. I was at the Condo by then, so I just weathered out this storm on the TV. I can remember so well the one mild storm I was in, and even a small one is fearsome. Our condo has a 6+ foot sea wall, and the one light storm which went near there piled up sand to the top of this structure. Now New Smyrna Beach is one of the nesting spots of the Giant Sea Turtles, and from March to November the area is a protected one. You cannot have a lot of light on at night (or you face a \$1000 fine—per window—per day. Our condo had an unoccupied unit, and open shades cost us a fine of #15.000. One of the board members got it cut down, but we still had it to pay. My shades were repaired, the twisted panels were fixed, and they were closed by 6PM.

The weather was fine, and I got a lot of rest while I was on the east coast.

I have received no bad news to report in this issue. I think I had better shut down the literary endeavors now, and get this issue in the mail.

Please send something for me to put into the newsletter. I have gotten a few phone calls, but not much by mail. I understand that you all have responsibilities, but it is difficult to send a decent note without any input. We are interested in less and less as we grow older and older.

Stay healthy, all, and write.

As Ever,

JB



