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Greetings All,

Getting ready to get ready for the reunion, and all seems to go well.

I received a note from Henry Rippert, the brother of our member, Steven, with sad news that Steve had a severe stroke in late April. He died May 6, in Philly. He wishes to remain on the mailing list, so am putting his sister on the roster as Henry is getting ready to sell the family home, and clear up the inevitable pile of details which the survivor needs to do.

I have made several calls to the Nashville area, trying to establish the plans for the meal on Saturday evening. They want numbers well ahead of their service, and I just cannot be too accurate about that. We have 12 rooms already reserved, and some 24 people are expected. There will be a few more, but our usual nucleus of Helpmates are going to make the meeting. We always have a nice time, tho, and there is a lot to do in that music town.

Had a surprise visit from my brother Gene last week. He usually comes up in August, but I was not made aware of the dates when he showed up. At the same moment, Babe's sister Mildred came up the driveway—one following the other. We had a very nice visit, and altho Mildred was just there for a visit, Gene stayed for 2 days, and we saw a few things which were available. No golf games on the computer, tho, as I do not have the same machine which he does, and my golf game is much more complicated that is his. He approved of my new house, and we had all the kids over at one time or another, so we entertained him a bit more than he expected.

I received a letter from Harry Danneman on the 8th. Pat died in 1999. She was in the hospital some of Dec., and most of Jan. and Feb. before she died. Harry did not give me her diag-

nosis, but he doubts that he will be able to make the upcoming reunion. I asked him to look around to see if anyone he knows will be able to take him. We are going to have to try to get the ones who are able to come some help with transportation. Several of the Northern Ill. group have done this in the past.

I received a letter of thanks from Paul Martin on the 8th, also. He thanked us for our sympathy letter, and gave me the address of the Hospice which did so much for Millie in her last days. I had already placed that in the newsletter, but I have it if others would like to donate.

Several days ago I received a letter from our Christopher, III. widow, Lorene Althoff. She and Aileen Pugh were good friends, and although she is 92 (soon 93), Lorene visited Aileen several times annually. I had received some news of this from John Wasilewski, already reported, and Aileen's newspaper write up will be placed in this issue later. Lorene send a donation for the kitty to help with postage, and was much appreciated. Thanks for the letter, Lorene. I hope your fishing days are full of luck for your cat. Be careful, tho. Don't fall in.

Leonard Leviton sent a donation for the ailing kitty, and this was very much appreciated. Len doesn't write much, and I wish he would keep us informed about Atlantic City, and Ocean City. Since Bud DeFeo left the seashore I hear little about that favorite reunion area. We appreciate the money, Len, but we would like to hear what is keeping you busy. Thanks so much. Our kitty is far from healthy, but is nearing the black area at this time.

As of this time we have 12 rooms booked, and 22 persons expected. This is just about what we had in Branson, but several of the regulars are not going to be present. I just received a call from Jerri Polson, and she has no



good way to get to the meeting, so she is going to be absent. It is a shame that those interested cannot come to the reunion. Many prefer not to fly, and that is understandable, and others are too infirm to be able to make the trip. I tried to make this one as close to all as possible, and Nashville is a good choice in that respect. But I had a lot of problems this year, and the spot in Nashville fills most of the needs as we get older. We may have to resort to the local minis as we use in southwest Florida. Seems a shame, tho. I believe that our group has stuck together better than any group our size in all of the units.

Pat Maier just called (16th) and gave me the latest on Charles Zimmer, and it has not been changed to his knowledge. He had almost immediate attention, and was put into intensive care at the hospital, and that is unchanged as of this time. He had planned going back to KY the latter part of the week, then on to the reunion. This will not be possible if he had any damage to his heart muscle. I will be getting more reports on this, so more later.

I received a letter from Gerry and Mugs Stensberg in the mail today. Gerry just had his eyes fixed, and got a fine result from the surgery. Reads the newspaper without his glasses. He still is not into driving far, tho, and will not try to make the reunion this year. Mugs does not have a valid driver's license, and so will be of no help. They will visit for a while in Duluth with family, and that is about all the driving that will be done this summer. May make the reunion next year. Will see.

They enclosed a bit of kitty fodder, for which the Message Center is very grateful.

Thanks for the letter, folks, and for the donation. I will give the attendees your best wishes.

I have finally gotten in touch with the folks who will cater the dinner at the reunion. They have been busy, and did not put my reminder into their computer, so it was neglected. No problem, though, as it has been arranged to my satisfaction.

I received an E-mail from Irv Merrill this PM. He is not going to be able to attend, but he asks me to give his best regards to all attending the function. I hope to get out to the far

west this fall, to see my relatives and friends out there, and he will be included in the mix, if at all possible. Will be awaiting your fax in Nashville, Irv. Hi to Ginny.

I had mentioned to Irv that I had not heard a thing from the General all this spring and summer. I hope this carries no dire consequences with it. He usually calls every 3 or 4 months, but I have had this situation before, and all was OK.

The annual reunion has just finished, and I am in Nashville, relaxing a little bit for a change at this time.

The reports on Charles Zimmer have been quite encouraging. He got off to Kentucky by plane, where his family is going to be handling much of his recovery under close supervision. He has some damage to his ticker, but that is a situation everyone faces at our age. I will hope to put more in print when I get back to St. Louis and mail received there.

And I have finished the driving back to home, and things went well. Didn't get killed, or even hurt, thankfully.

Not a bit of mail from our group. But I haven't found all of the mail, I don't believe. There were too few bills to have been all of it. Got to have a bundle of bills, just waiting to be paid.

Now for the reunion details. The group which showed up was just exactly what I expected. I arrived there on Wednesday, and joined the few already there. On Thursday they dribbled in, and all arrived except John Wasilewski, who got in on Friday night. He had to hold his court open that AM, but got there just as we all were getting on the bus for the Grand Old Opry. He didn't want to join that group, so he holed up the joint while we reveled. All in all, there were 13 Helpmates and their companions attending. On Wednesday the Patrick Maiers, Warren and Julia Shields, George and Dorothy Ralcewich, Bud and Jean DeFeo, Mel and Betty Donaldson, Warren and Irene Ellis, Shirley Dawson, her daughter, and her granddaughter, and myself all showed up. The next day, Ray and Marge Crismond, Bill and Marion Hartley, Bob Rosen, Deborah and Kyle Gribskov (Pat Maier's daughter and son in law), and Lloyd Lage and friend Joann Riva (not Rios) arrived. John Wasilewski came in on Friday evening after a busy day in his native Chicago courtroom. On Wednesday,



a large group went on a tour of the Johnny Walker hooch factory, and enjoyed it greatly. I got in about 2:30, and got things cleared up as to the facilities, and their wishes as to how we were to visit, etc. Our meeting spot was one huge room, with tables and chairs galore, and we had 2 large TV's, a VCR and CD player, a full kitchen, and 2 bathrooms. We did not have to share this facility, so we were wide open for visits, etc. George Ralcewich, the Donaldsons, and myself went snack and drink buying, and had no trouble loading up on all sorts of light stuff to fill our bellies. I got a 12 pack of beer for those who would like it, and many of the cans were used before we closed up. Some of the group took in boat trips, shopping tours of the huge malls present there, and on Friday night, about the entire group went to the Grand Old Opry, where we were plied with numerous commercials to plug the wares of the sponsors. I had thought that we were going to be entertained by the upper crust of the Country/Western branch of musicians, but we got the commercials, a few name entertainers, and numerous up and coming acts which were aired between the numerous commercial messages. I was basically disappointed, and was glad to report this to the persons in the hotel, and they were a little surprised at what I told them. I finally figured out that I should not have been surprised. The ticket stub had a note in large letters (G O O S), and I figured that I got a \$29.00 goosing. Could have been worse, I guess.

John Wasilewski came in Friday night as we were loading on the bus, and did not wish to join the musical entertainment, so he socked in for the night.

On Saturday we sat around and visited some more. There were various things to do, but the ladies got in more than their share of shopping, I guess. We spent most of the AM in the meeting room, loafing, filling our guts with junk, and the like. All of the group enjoyed the old memories and the numerous stories and anecdotes which aired in that room.

We had to vacate the room late that afternoon to allow the caterers to set up for dinner that evening. We all beat the food people and the 25 of us sat around the table, and had

more visiting time. Numerous photo opportunities were developed and caught on film, and lots of good fellowship was enjoyed at this meal.

The caterer did an excellent job with the meal. They served Chicken Condon Bleu, Prime Rib roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked potatoes, candied carrots, Green Beans Almandine, tossed salad, home-made bread, tea and coffee, and various cakes for a dessert course. The food was delicious, well prepared, and hit the spot for all of our group.

We had a presentation of the Survivors Cognac by Bob Rosen, and he vows that the contents of the bottle has never been exposed to the atmosphere or opened. The case has had a boo-boo, and several cracks were caused by being dropped accidentally, but Bob thinks he will get that fixed. It was good to see the bottle in such good hands, and I feel that it is safe for the last living survivor of this august group.

We had a general discussion about next year's meeting, and Bud and Jean DeFeo will be the planners. I will get a date, a place, and a plan whenever they have developed it. I am so thankful that our group has such great members. Getting one of these things going is a chore, and takes a lot of time, and some inconvenience before it comes together. More on this as it develops. Thanks Bud. For a foster member, you and Jean are tops.

The facilities we were furnished was top-drawer. All of us were given suite accommodations, with 2 rooms, beds of our choosing, and full kitchen facilities. The rooms were clean, and the charges for the units very low, I felt. We had a \$30 draw per person, and this paid for the various set-up costs, and for the dinner. I had some more that \$6 per person left over, and was asked to put that into our very anemic kitty. That will take some of the red out, but getting our new copier more than zeroed our funds. I received several generous donations from the attendees, and this was much appreciated. Our group made a splendid impression on the hotel staff, and I was told that I could count on them at any time in the future for courteous, professional care, if we were ever to return.

I received an address change on Eloise Grisham on Monday. She now resides in Ken-



tucky. Her new address is:  
Mrs. Eloise Grisham  
622 Barrett Blvd Apt 309  
Henderson, KY 42420-2608

Her last Helpmate Bulletin has been sent to that address. Let us hear from you, Eloise.

On the 31st I received a note from Stanley Chmura with news that he and Clara would be unable to make the reunion. 3 of Stan's brothers are being treated for cancer, and one of his brothers has developed a bleeding ulcer which has required urgent transfusions on 2 occasions—total of 8 units of blood. Our best wishes go to you and your family, and keep us posted about the good stuff.

Stan enclosed a donation for Miss Kitty, for which many thanks are due.

How about the hot weather? I has been in the middle 90's for the last week, with a heat index over 105 most of the days. We had such a mild winter, I guess we forgot what real cold, and heat, is. It is stifling here in River City. I am landlocked in this air-conditioned world, believe me.

Had a relaxing Labor Day in St. Louis. My family was scattered between Lake of the Ozarks, and New Smyrna Beach FL, and I had no one to monitor me but son David. He just moved into a new house, so he has lots to do, just to stay on top. I bummed around, went to a friend's house, and marinated. It seemed kind of nice, just to bang around. No pressures, no schedule, no worries. Watched the baseball Cardinals win a ball game, then the Rams eeked thru their win.

On the 5th, I received a nice letter from Ruth Williams. She had been cleaning out some of Dick's files, and came across a huge one which represented the 284th activities. She did a neat thing, and started reading some of the old issues of the Bulletin, and felt she had to write to thank me for keeping the newsletter going for the group. I would like to ask Ruth to save some of Dick's memorabilia for our use, if she were going to destroy it. We have gathered many articles in this manner. Thank you so much for your concern, Ruth. Dick was a very faithful member of our group, and was at many of the reunions, even when it made some difficulties in attending. Write anytime, and let

us know how things are going. We know what a great loss you suffered at his death.

I received a call from Ruth Zimmer on the 9th with news that Charles had been seen by his cardiologist when he got back to Lexington, and he seemed fine after the problem on the west coast. But one evening soon after he was not feeling just right, and he began perspiring, and seemed a little out of it, so they took him in to the ER, and he was admitted. At this time he was catheterized, and significant blockage was found present, and he was transported to a different hospital, and 3 vessel bypass was done. He did well, and he continues to be fine, but he believes heart vessels can cause problems at this time.

I told her that the Zimmer's name came up on numerous occasions at the reunion, and she is already planning the trip to Ocean City, one of the places she enjoyed in the past. She and Charlie were planning getting to Nashville, but I suspect that she realizes that first things first, and it just wasn't in the books in 2000. She will be at Ocean City next year.

And when I got back on the internet I had a message from Deb Gribskov, Pat Maier's daughter, and she told me the same story. Pat had been in touch with Ruth Zimmer, and was given the same info that I mentioned above. I would rather hear it twice than not at all. Especially the good news.

I am going to put several things at the last of the newsletter. I have gotten the obit notice on Eileen Pugh, and that will be placed therein, and a letter which I got recently from some GI source or other. I had gotten it late in May, but was unable to locate it before now. Several of the documentaries being offered now are being done because the ranks are getting thinner, and soon no one will be able to speak for us. In any event, here it is.

I had mentioned earlier that John Wasilewski had given me a book written by an officer in the 283rd FA Bn. They had a very fruitful existence, and their activities as "unattached artillery" was very similar to ours, and they were given very responsible duties in covering fire missions. I wonder if the 282nd or the 512th had an existence which paralleled ours, too.

Our weather is cooling down some, and we



had a lovely rain last night. Has been quite dry lately, so a refreshing rain was most welcome. A cold front has been a refreshing visitor, and is apt to be with us for a few days. It is supposed to hit record lows in a day or two. I can handle that.

The news has been dead. It generally is after the reunion, but I always try to get an issue out just as soon after the reunion as I can, so I hope to get something to write about—but not this time.

You may have noticed that I have quit putting birthday notices in the newsletter. I have long quit celebrating my birthday, and would like to stop remembering how old I am becoming. Just another day, in just another year. I will resume this in the future if anyone would like for me to do same. Let me know.

I sent the list that I have of the members who are on the internet to John Wasilewski. I am sure that he will put it on our website, so look for it when you get on the computer. I try to send important stuff out to the members, and it gives me another way to keep interest up.

I have also listed our website location on the front page in the address box. The typing need not be in capital letters, but it must be accurate as to lettering. If anyone has a problem finding the website, feel free to call and possibly get help. John Wasilewski is to be commended for the fine work, and the large amount of time, he spent getting the site on line. I will have John place the current newsletter in the site. I may learn to do it in the future, but you know old dogs, and new tricks.

I just received a phone call from Marian Hartley with the good news that she is not going to have heart surgery at this time. She displayed a hunk of concern in Nashville, but kept telling us to wait until Sept. 15 for some news. She would not tell us what the problem dealt with. She had had some significant cardiac pathology, but her MD had changed her medicine, and would decide in September whether the RX was helping. It apparently did, and she feels much better, and I was advised to get down there soon, or that they were going to call a meeting of the West Coast Regiment without me. I must admit that I am in the mood to get down there, but cannot be there until

next month. She and Bill are going to Penn late in September, and will be back in Florida after the 1st week in October. I am going to have to get down there, for sure. I will have to plan a trip to the west coast in late October, but have nothing keeping me from a trip to Fl in the weeks before. Will see. Thanks so much for the call, Marion. Will see you soon, and congrats on the good news.

Well, had better get this show on the road, so will admonish all to take care, and stay on the healthy side.

AS EVER

JBS

PS: Will put the promised letter in the next issue of the newsletter. No space at this time. (If I don't lose it before.

JS

### **Ethel Aileen Pugh**

WEST FRANKFORT — Ethel Aileen Pugh of 302 N. Horrell Ave., West Frankfort, died at 4:07 a.m. Friday, July 28, 2000, at the Franklin Hospital in Benton.

She married Virgil Pugh on Dec. 24, 1938, in Benton, Ky., and he survives.

She was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in West Frankfort, Eastern Star and the Girl Scouts.

She is survived by her husband, Virgil; her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Jane and Bob York of West Frankfort; granddaughter and her husband, Julie and Tom Broy of West Frankfort; grandson and his wife, Richard and Keyna York of West Frankfort; great-grandsons, T.J. and Tyson Broy; sister-in-law, Joan Pugh of West Frankfort; brother-in-law, John Maddaleno of West Frankfort; many nieces and nephews; and two sisters, Betty Prusaczyk of Harrisburg and Jo Ann Harkins of Mulkeytown.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and one brother.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 31, 2000, at the Parker-Reedy Funeral Home, with Sister Ruth Hayes officiating. Burial will be in the Tower Heights Cemetery. Friends may call after 6 p.m. today to the Parker-Reedy Funeral Home.

PS: The Helpmates pictured in Al Pavlick's photo were: Foreground—Grunewald. Background—Weik, George, Sathory and Pavlick.





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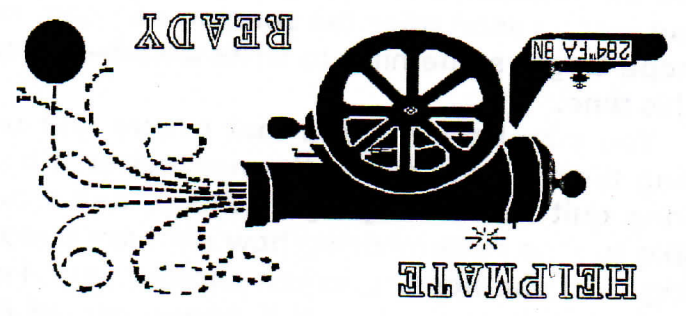
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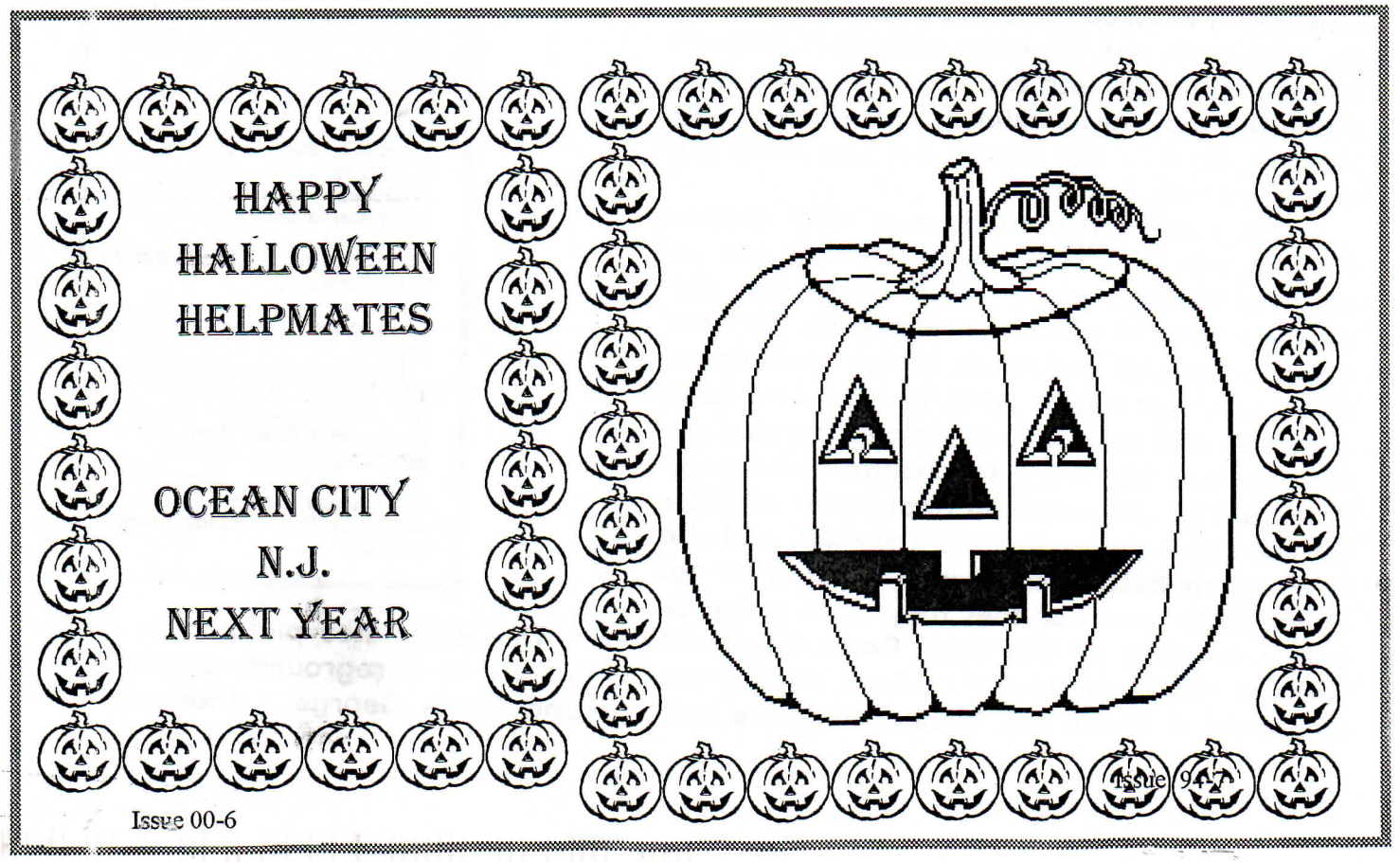
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Issue 00-6