



HELMATE BULLETIN

Official Newsletter

of the

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Dear Helpmates,

Well, we start a new year, with new experiences, and new hopes. Let us hope that much good fortune will support us all this year.

I had several cards reach me just after the last issue was finished. Martha Ellis sent nice regards, and a cheering poem which I will place in this issue later. She is confined to a wheelchair, but doing well when you take into consideration her age—nearly 88. She wrote the letter in loose rhyme, and the poem I will include is from a collection of poems which are written for the months. Of course, this was the poem for July.

And Martha, my zip code is 63129. Postmen are very conscious of addresses. Sent a note by snail-mail a while back to a good friend, but sent a wrong last number, and they sent it back for a correct address.

Thank you for the note, Martha. Stay healthy and keep in touch.

And Joe and Flo Zielinski sent greetings to all, and news that they are doing fair at this time. I believe Flo is having trouble with a knee, and her kneecap was surgically replaced, but did not remain in the right spot. More work will be needed this year. In addition, she developed diabetes, and arthritis is plaguing her existence at the present time. She is using walking aids and gets around fairly well.

Thanks for the card, and stay well.

Herb Smith sent a greeting, and a note with news that Betty had a TIA after a trip to Fenwick Island. She did very well, and remained in the hospital for a couple of days. No residual at all, apparently from the episode.

Herb and Betty have 4 granddaughters, and one grandson, Kevin. Kevin is now 2, and Harvey had a grandson, Devin, born on the same day. Both fathers are named alike (Chris and

Kris) and Herb thinks it may have something to do with twin grandfathers.

Thanks for the news, Herb. Keep in touch.

I believe that is all of the greeting cards I received this year. Thank you all very much for giving us a small part of your life.

I received notice from one of Marion Conway's sons that his dad had died. He apparently had a lingering problem, and expired after a good fight. He was given a military funeral with full rights. I am always sorry to hear of another loss. Captain Conway and Captain Kittell were great friends, and I was asked to make a final bridge partner in their game, occasionally. He will be missed.

And a son of Raymond Sanders wrote to tell me that his dad had died from esophageal cancer last May. He thanked me for his dad, who enjoyed the newsletters greatly.

And a note from Don Haaning telling me that he was going to spend some time in Fla. This winter, and hoped to get together with Carney and Ralcewich while there. He has been fighting prostate cancer for nine years, and so far he has kept ahead of the grim reaper. His wife and his doctor are responsible for this good outcome. Thanks for the note, Don. May see you down there.

I had sent Dick Bozzo a CD of the war pictures I had made up, and he was glad to get the CD. He is going to have his grandsons put all of his slides and pictures on a CD and send it to me. Thanks a lot, Dick. It will be viewed.

I got word from George Ralcewich that Marion Hartley suffered a broken pelvis from a fall. She is doing well, and continues to recover from the injury. Her new phone # in Penn. Is 570-368-2751.

I went to Florida again in early January. I

had still unfinished business there, and had to hopefully finish that deal there. At least I hope it is finished. I had to change legal help, as the attorney I had closed his office, and he had to find an associate to take over the case. It was a legal firm that I had been advised to call from day 1, so I feel sure that something will occur after 14 months of inactivity.

While down there, I had some time with Ray and Marge, and had the good fortune of getting some decent cards, and Marge closed up the game. She was not feeling too good, and I felt she needed to rest, and not be aggravated by bad cards.

I also had the good fortune of getting together with George and Dorothy Ralcewich, and also with Melvin and Betty Donaldson at one of the local Casinos in Tampa. We did not lose a great deal, but we did lose. This one was just off Interstate 4, so was very easy to get to. We had lunch together after we had tickled the machines, and had a nice long visit at that time.

In addition, just before I came back to St. Louis, I joined the same group at a musical event put on by the Polish Club in Holiday. It was a family group who work in Branson, MO, and it was a very pleasant evening. They put on a Polish meal, then about 2-3 hour entertainment afterward. It was very well produced, and I hope maybe I can repeat this in the future.

When I arrived back, I had the notice about Capt. Conway, and a few days later, an E-mail from Gerry Stensberg's son, notifying me of his dad's death. Gerry was at the assisted living location, and just didn't awaken. I received a call from "Mugs" on the 20th, and she is doing well in spite of her loss. She and Clair Schneider had been in contact, and I know that Mugs will face the world straight on. We are getting fewer and fewer.

Clair Schneider called me the next morning, and we talked about Gerry's death. He had been close to the Stensbergs for a long time, and hated the news, but knew that Gerry had been ailing for some time.

We discussed the world problems, and he is now hoping that we will get a federal sales tax to help cure our fiscal woes. He knows full well that if there is ample money, congress will find a place to spend it. He brought me up to date

on his family story, and we both enjoyed the short time on the phone. He and his general are doing well, are feeling well, and hope to stay well. Thanks for the call, Clair.

The weather has been somewhat on the warm side, and there has been nearly no rain this winter. They are promising some moisture in the very near future, but I will wait until it happens before I celebrate.

Another call from Clair on the 4th of March. He was telling me some of the problems a son was experiencing, and it sure sounded like the son was working hard to get justice. He and Carol are doing relatively fine, but he thinks he is getting older.

We talked over some of his army contacts with Gerry Stensberg, and what a great guy Gerry was. I agreed completely, and we both hoped that his passing was a smooth event. He will be missed.

And on the 6th, I received another call from George and Dorothy Ralcewich. They had just gone to the Hard Rock Casino, and had a good time there. Mel Donaldson was selling his spot at the trailer camp he used each winter, and was also going to sell his automobile. The camp has rental spots, so Mel and Betty will rent one if they wish to continue wintering in Florida.

He had been in touch with Jim Carney, and they planned a meeting with Don Haaning when Don and Diane came down in March. He will be in touch with me later about this. Both of them appear to be in good shape physically and they have no news about medical stuff.

Heard from the Ralcewich group again on the 12th. They had traveled down I75 to the Ft. Myers area, and had met with the Carney and Haaning families as they had planned. They had an enjoyable meeting, and hoped to make more contacts before spring.

The sales of Donaldson's unit, and his car, are now completed. Mel has made arrangements to rent one of the open trailers from the unit manager if he came down during winter-time. Not much more going on down there at this time. They did their thing at the Hard Rock, and had a good time losing a few bucks.

I received a note from "Mugs" Stensberg with a request to leave her name on the

Helpmate rolls, so that she may receive the newsletter in the future. It will be done, Mugs.

I am going to close this issue. I hope to get an issue out every 2-4 months, so keep the news coming in. Happy spring to all.

As ever.

JB

P.S. Just heard from George Ralcewich on the 17th. He tells me that Mel Donaldson had a very slight stroke, and is in a hospital in Tampa. Seems to be doing well, and should go home soon. Good Luck, Mel. jb



