



HELPMATE BULLETIN

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Official Newsletter

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Greetings, Helpmates,

Had some bad news at the home front in July. I caught a wee bit of a stroke, and it has affected my left hand a lot. It certainly could have been worse, but it has left me with a lot of difficulty with my typing. My fingers drag on the keys, and I have a lot of extra letters in my sentences. I get a lot of practice with the delete key, and the back-spacer, but it takes me about forever to get anything typed. I have started this issue of the newsletter a dozen times, only to get disgusted with progress, and start it again.

I have had about 15 sets of x-rays made, and 100 lab tests done, and had a stent placed in my noggin at the side of my brain to eliminate a closure of my right Internal Carotid Artery. The procedure is considered experimental by Medicare of Missouri, but my insurance company has OK'ed it, and it was done a week or so ago.

I am going to try to get this issue of our newsletter out eventually, but I am very cautious about promising future issues. Maybe practice will improve my skills. I have noticed no improvement to this date.

I received Jerri Polson's newsletter back, and with the help of Clair Schneider, sent a new one to the Health Food Store the family owns in Antioch. I generally get a call from her several times a year, but not a thing recently. I suspect that she is in an assisted living facility, and is not communicating at this time. In any event, I think that this has been solved for the present. Her current address is:

760 Main St.
Antioch, IL 60002

Please excuse the timing of my notes as they are in a pile, and I may not be able to put them into correct time orientation. I cannot believe how difficult this minor disability has made my life.

SI received a note from Fred Beltz's friend and he stated that Fred had an estate sale, and someone must have bought a few of his articles, and had put them on E-bay for a quick sale. He feels that Fred is doing well in rehab, and is getting along with his prosthesis OK. I am sure glad to hear that. Do keep in touch, Fred. Fred has taken up a new hobby. He is collecting 4 leaf clovers, and helps him with his mobility.

Heard from Chris Zielinski that his dad had died last October after a short hospital stay. Florence is doing well. Joe enjoyed getting the newsletter—read it from cover to cover. We enjoyed the company of Joe and Flo on our European trip. Our condolences go out to Joe's family on their great loss.

Received a nice note and the obituary notice of Don Haaning's funeral. I will try to put this in the letter if it will copy OK. Diane has asked to be removed from the mailing list, which I will do after this mailing.

Took a trip down in early summer for a week or two. Met with a few of the west coast members in North Port, Fl. for a nice luncheon. The group attending included George and Dorothy Ralcewich, Warren and Irene Ellis, James and Mildred Carney, Bob and Helen Mielke, Paul (son of Bob) and Rosemary Mielke, Janice (daughter of Bob) and

Gary Grabow, and myself. Had a very nice visit with this group, and hope to repeat the experience in the future. The Ellis's are now permanent residents of the area, and will be a steady participant with the West Coast Brigade.

I tried to do some more work on my problem in the area, but didn't have much confidence that anything was accomplished on this trip. I met with the attorney, but he just put off my questions, and left me with the promise to contact me about my project. Spent a little time with George and Dorothy, and visited the Hard Rock Casino several times with them. We had some games of Liverpool Rummy, and had my first inkling of trouble there. I was not able to use my left hand well, and kept dropping coins from the hand. It seemed to lessen, and I did not think any more about it. But when I got home, the problem returned, and I was asked to see my MD. He suspected a stroke had occurred, and started a million tests to make sure that this was the case. It was, and I had to have another 12 grand x-ray battery of tests. Then a final exam showed that I had a very small opening in the Internal Carotid Artery into my brain on the right side. The repair was a suggestion to place a stent into this vessel was deemed experimental by Medicare, but was OK'ed by the Insurance Co. I was medicated, and Plavix'ed and they did the deed without my help. I notice no improvement in my hand usage, but the small roar of the blocked artery had largely disappeared.

I am so glad that it has been such a slight impairment. It has really hindered my typing skill, NO it has destroyed it. I have added letters by the galore and I can delete and backspace with the best of them now.

Meanwhile, back at the farm, I continue.

Have had several telephone calls with the Ralcewich group, and with Clair Schneider, and one from Charlie Zimmer. Charlie does OK, but Ruth continues her problems with the orthopedic ailment. I received an itinerary from Clair of a son's trip to Europe, and it seems that he will be into France, Italy, and

Switzerland mostly. They will enjoy, I am sure.

Got a returned bulletin from George Ford. I will be forced to remove his name if no one knows of his whereabouts.

Got a phone call from Bob Rosen in early September. Things go well in Media, and he will soon begin his haunting of the islands this fall. He does a little in his business, probably from habit. I am going to send him a listing of our roster, if I can find it.

I received a note written on May 11 from one of the group, and the envelope has been lost, and the letter was unsigned. This member just finished bowling in the winter league, and tells me that an eye ailment has left her with a black spot in the right eye for which she is being treated.

This member mentions that he or she has a lot of German war equipment yet, but does not show it much because few people are interested. Please don't just sell it in a yard sale or the like. It has historical value in many places.

George called in late August with news that another lunch was held at North Port for the usual group, and was much enjoyed. Jim Carney is leaving temporarily for a visit to his northern locates. The group plans to continue their meetings, for which I am glad. I will catch them later, for sure.

Received an E-mail from Dave Barlog with a request to keep his mother on the newsletter list if possible. Hopes I will improve and be able to continue the letter.

On 8/8 I received an E-mail from Mel Donaldson's daughter, Pat with news that Mel had died the day before. He had been doing OK apparently, but after a fall several days prior he seemed generally good, but rapidly began declining and he removed his IV lines, and died shortly thereafter. He will be missed.

I have conveyed our condolences to Betty, and our sympathy to the family in their great

loss.

In mid August I received a note from Irv Merrill's family that they were going to honor their parent's 65th Wedding Anniversary with a reception on Sept. 1. I called to express congratulations, and to decline their invitation to the party. I had a short talk with Irv., and was so glad to such an opportunity.

Guess I had better close this issue, and will keep trying to keep the newsletter going. Be patient, and excuse my errors in timing and spelling—and Don't Get Old.

As ever
JBS



