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# HELPMATE BULLETIN

Official Newsletter

of the

284th F. A. B n . W W I I

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Dear Helpmates,

My complaining about no news seems to be getting some results. I have received several calls from Helpmates, and I certainly appreciate their input. I hesitate to put in some intimate details, and many of the people who call simply want to relate their interest in getting some inkling of what and where former friends are up to. Thanks so much, and keep up the good work. It would also be nice if there are family of members who have passed away would let me know about it. I used to keep a log of the known deaths, but that became ancient history long ago.

I got a call from Joe Bozzo in June. We had a long talk about mostly personal things, and Rae Marie is continuing having medical problems with her back, and her eyes. All else seems fine in NJ, and we talked a bit about Jeep Rafeld, and I brought him up to date with what I knew of Jeep.

Then a few days later, I heard from David Hawkins via E-mail. They are doing some travel, and he happily relates the fact that he and Virginia were high winners in a Las Vegas slot tournament, and easily paid for that trip with that bounty. Dave, I just want you to know that I am glad to have someone special win my losses out there. Keep up the good work.

I had a returned bulletin from the last mailing from Margaret Stensberg. I will hear from Clair Schneider soon, and will clear this up. I think she is in an assisted living type unit, but Clair will know.

George Ralcewich called on May 31. All is doing well in Florida. He is seeing the VA medics for a minor bleeding problem, and now Dorothy has discovered a small skin lesion, and is having that treated. Otherwise Florida is wet but doing OK. Will try to be down later this year.

Got a letter from Les Lenker 7/1. His 2nd wife is developing some kidney problems which are being treated. He called James Kessinger (State College), but got no answer. Enjoys reading Bulletin. He sent a donation for the kitty for which I am very grateful.

Received a call from Clair Schneider on 3rd of July. He gave me a correct zip address for Mugs Stensberg. I had a slight error, and the

public servants do not forgive small errors. I mailed her a newsletter and it did not return. A lot of idle chatter followed, Clair's relatives are taking a long trip to Europe, and he will report to me on their return. Always good to wonder about what we talked about when the call ends. Love it.

Got a new plaything recently. Skype is a camera which projects your image on the screen, and sends it to whomever you are talking with. Jim Dale, my PhD plant pathologist in Arkansas got me interested. Works pretty good. You still can't make chicken salad out of 85 year old bodies.

On July 7 I received a letter from Bob Rosen. He included a donation which is always welcome. 7/7 would also have been my father's 111th birthdate.

Sumiko is back from a ritual trip to Japan. Several of the grandkids accompanied her, and seemed to enjoy the experience a lot.

Bob will be going South in the fall for his usual R. & R. o the Islands. He has given up strenuous tennis now, thank heavens. Thanks for the note. I now can read it in about an hour. Bob gave me belated news of the death of one of his children in the recent past.

Short note on 7/28 from Les Lenker. Does well. Has sold all of his Florida property, and will stay in Pa for the rest of the time. Thanks f or the kitty donation, but hold any more, please. I AM sure hat there is enough for 3 or 4 more issues in the kitty, but I am not so sure the same is true for my ornery body.

I got a letter from Patricia Entile in July. She works a day at local nursing home. Enjoys being around people. Lloyd Lage visits occasionally and talks about old times. Lloyd will be going back to AZ in September. He likes to winter there.

On July 4, I got an E-mail from Carol McElmurray (Nightingale). They have lived in a mountain home in southern Colorado for 11 years, and love it. 20 mile (One way) to the mailbox, Somebody has to do it. She came to several of the reunions in the past with her sister.

Got a call from Clair S. on Aug 5. Mugs does well. Got my new bulletin, Tomatoes doing well. Family back from Europe. They had a great time, and had no negative experiences. He was as vague as always, and we did all of the world problems, and cured them all. His garden sure is beating mine, and I do not know why. I have a 250 miles south advantage. Thanks for the call.

July 15 E-mail from Lembo family with news of Tony's death. I downloaded his Obit and will put it at end of this issue. I expressed our sorrow to the family for their great loss. He will be missed.

I got a call from George Ralcewich with the sad news of Marge Crismond's death on Aug. 14. He had none of the details, but had just

heard from Ray of her passing. Marge had been having breathing problems for some time, but seemed fairly comfortable using her oxygen machine. She was a sharp card player, and hit the bingo games often. Their son stays at home, and this will be a great help for Ray. And he will keep busy with his very expert work with genealogy, but her passing will leave a great void in the family.

And later in the afternoon I got a short note from Ray with the news of Marge's death. No details, but he knew that I was aware of her medical condition. I passed on the group's condolences and I will connect with him when I go down later in August.

What a loss. A good woman, and real "Helpmate", I will try to add her obit notice later in this issue.

I E-mailed the news of Marge's death to Clair S., and he called me the next AM to let me know that he had called Ray about the sad event. They had a nice talk, and he left feeling that Ray was handling the loss well.

I called Ray on Sunday, the 17th, and had a nice talk. Marge had been in the hospital with a prolonged episode of bronchitis, and during that time she had fallen, and had broken a hip.

She had surgery, but apparently this increased the stress on her body, and she did not make it through. She and her close friend, Shirley Dawson are somewhere up there having a good time.

I got a call from brother Gene's wife letting me know that Gene was worsening, and was being placed in the Hospice facility with his approval. He became much worse quite suddenly, and allowed them to remove him to their inpatient facility. He did not respond to any of the treatment, and passed away about five hours after his admission. He was given a lot of pain medication, and remained comatose until his death. I flew down on Sunday (5th Oct.) and helped whenever needed. He was buried on the 16th, surrounded by much family. His COPD was a legacy of his heavy smoking, I suspect, and he surely had large respiratory problems in his later life.

I called George and Dorothy while down, and planned meeting them at the Hard Rock but we were in different parts of the Casino, I guess, and we didn't get together. I also called Jeep Rafeld, and got to visit a while with him. He continues having visual problems, but is doing well, generally. I also called Ray, but he was doing some of the necessary chores which his current situation demands. Came back home Monday, 13th, somewhat tired,

John Wasilewski has been in touch with me, and he tells me that he is going to have to open a new website, as AOL is closing part of the service which maintains this spot. I had hoped to get the new location in this issue, but this chore might take a while. I am trying to get hold of some obits concerning our departed members, but this is not working out, either. I will drag my feet for a while, and then get this issue on the way before the election. Who knows what the next postal rate may be, and when.

Take care of yourselves, and DON'T GET OLD.

John B.

E-mail from Jessica Wooten on Sept. 13, 2008

I am writing to let you know that my grandmother Shirley Dawson passed away on Sept 8, 2008. She was diagnosed with lung cancer Man. 2, 2008 and was thought to be cured but, about 6 weeks ago grandma had to be rushed to the ER only to find that although her lungs were free it had metastasized to her brain. Grandma had little or no pain in her final days and went quickly with a small smile on her face and asking where Frank was...in her days just prior she joked that she had a date with Frank and I know she is in heaven with him now.

## **ANTONIO LEMBO**

Lembo, Antonio, in Neptune, NJ on July 13, 2008. Agee 85. Born in Paterson, lifelong city resident, moving to Tom's River in 1986. Parishioner of Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church in Paterson. He was a member of "The Offbeats" singing group of Holiday City, Toms River. He was Army Veteran of WWII, he was a member pf the 284th Field Artillery Battalion. Also past post chaplain and member of Riverside Veterans of Hawthorne NJ and a member of VFW Post 281 of Fair Lawn, NJ. He is survived by his wife Delores (nee Di Rienzo), three sons, Frank of Hawthorne, Leonard of Prospect Park, and Peter of Powhatan, VA. One daughter, Lucia Dana Glen Rock, one sister Eva Shupin of Bricktown NJ. Also survived by eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Predeceased by his brother Joseph Lembo and sister Elizabeth D'Errico. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral on Thursday, July 17 at 8:45 A.M. from Scillieri Funeral Home 351 Fifth Ave., Paterson NJ followed by a mass of Resurrection at Blessed Sacrament Church at 9:30 AM with burial to follow at Holy Sepulchre cemetery, Totowa. In lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be appreciated. Visitation Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 P.M.

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