



HELPMATE BULLETIN

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Greetings All, Happy Holidays:

Hope you all are preparing for a super 2008 Holiday Season. It has been a stressful year for many of us, and the future is certainly not the brightest for a while. What with the wars, the recession, and the other distractions, it has been a real chore to handle. Hopefully the situation will improve next year.

Got a call from George and Dorothy Ralcewicz on the 24th Nov. George is being followed for a mild blood problem at the Veteran's Hosp. in Tampa, and things are under good control at this time. He and Dorothy hit the Hard Rock Casino at times, and take home my money, left there on previous visits.

I received an obituary from Washington, Pa to announce the death of William Mawhinney. I will place in the last page as I usually do. He is one of the older memers of the Washington group, and well may have been the longest survivor. In the letter which contained the obit. Bill's wife recalled the joy Bill felt doing church service, and was saddened when he was unable to continue. Another great loss for a family, and for our group.

I am also going to place the Obit notice of another Washington, Pa. member of our group. Edward Markoski, Sr. He died several weeks before Mawhinney, and I believe that Mrs. Mawhinney sent me the obit. Another Helpmate gone.

My newsletter to "Mugs" Stensberg was returned with a note "no receptacle". It was the same address used last month, so I don't know what the problem is, but I will be hearing from Clair Schneider soon, and will try to fix this.

The bulletin to Frank Lunsford. Asheville, NC was returned—"attempted—not known". And one to Frank Prepelka, Whitaker, Pa, was

noted "moved". If any of you are in contact with these folks, notify them of the returns.

As in the past, I will report the Xmas cards, and any news within, but will not acknowledge kitty donations. Most people know that the kitty is fairly well off, but still send donations for this purpose.

My first card came from Mary Ciccone, who seems to always be first. She had no bad news to report, which leads one to suspect that things go well in Pa. Thanks so much for the greeting.

Bee Beck sends greetings from Florida, and wishes all a healthy, happy 2009. Again, no news, so hope all is going well there.

Eunice Tibbott sends news of a new address. She now lives at;

180 Sand Mountain Rd.
Spring Mills, PA 16875

All the kids are well, and finishing college programs. Eunice is having some problems with vision acuity, and also having respiratory difficulty at times. Otherwise, all goes OK.

David and Virginia Hawkins are a dynamo in action. Several trips to the Vegas area for visits with family were greatly enjoyed. Joel's brother, Bud, sometime later, while under hospice care, succumbed to a heart condition. While in Chicago, at the funeral, one of his nieces lost her 21 year old son to a heart ailment.

A visit to the Pa. area to see family was soon followed by a visit from Hurricane DOLLY which did very little damage. And this was followed by Hurricane IKE, which had the good sense to land a little north of expected path, and spared them.

A cruise on the Mediterranean, and one on the Caribbean, and several trips completed their visiting year.

Keep it up, folks. Stay young—carefully.

Richard Bozzo sends greetings to all, and is beginning to feel the brunt of the mid-80's. He and Rae Marie just celebrated 66 years of marriage. Rae is having some trouble walking, and her glaucoma is not responding well to her medications.

Pat and Ruth Maier are also completing their 66th year of marriage, and are both in generally good health. They wish all the best for next year.

Millie Nelson sends best wishes, and a note with news of her selling her house, and moving to a temporary location, then to a permanent address at:

Valley View
6201 47th Ave.
Moline, IL 61205

She will move into the new address in Feb, 2009. The move was needed to downsize, and to try to keep up with problems with neck and back disabilities.

All of her family is increasing in number, and are doing well, all things considered.

Betty Donaldson sends greetings to all, and doubts that she will be getting to Florida this year. She hears periodical from George and Dorothy Ralcewich. She went on a Caribbean cruise earlier this year, and in November she went for a month to Europe. She got into most of the important spots, and came home with a greatly lightened purse. Great. Babe liked Europe a lot. I tolerated it.

Patricia Entile wrote a note with news that she has been in touch with Florence Axtell who lives in Michigan and learned that Florence has recently had a hip replacement. She and Steve are doing well, and enjoy generally good health. She is doing some volunteer medical work, and enjoying it immensely. She has recently heard from Lloyd Lage, before he left for the West, and had a nice chat with him.

Got a short note from Robert Rosen in the same mail. He and Lage were good buddies in the old days, and Bob never fails to mention Lloyd when he calls or writes.

Bob wishes all a good Holiday Time, and a splendid New Year. Sumiko is soon to travel back to Japan for a family function, and hopes one of their daughters will make the trip with

her. Bob can no longer tolerate the 15 hour non-stop flight which is involved. Bob will head south on a short flight to the Caribbean.

A short note from Marion Hartley tells me that things are going well in Pa. for her. She is not fond of the cold weather, but that is one of the pestilences she must endure. She sends greetings to all for the Holidays, and for 2009.

Jeep and Gerry Rafeld sent a note with news that they are hanging on fairly well, supported by all kinds of medications. Things are going OK in their Florida, and they hope I will get down once in a while.

George and Dorothy have a complaint. The temperature got down to 44 a week or so ago, and that is feather ruffling for Florida folks. He has been in touch with Jim Carney, and they are already planning a meeting for my upcoming trip down. I guess I can be talked into joining them. So glad to hear from the south.

Irv and Ginny Merrill send regards for all, and hope all will enjoy health and happiness in the new year. They have endured several family tragedies, but have survived. Stay well, folks

That ends this year's newsy cards up to the 22nd. I will report on any more I receive in the next few days. I hope that I have not left anyone out, but that does happen.

As ever
JBS

This is the latest info on our website. John Wasilewski is setting a permanent spot, but it is not perfected as of this moment. We have a temporary locate and may be reached at:

<http://pwp.att.net/p/s/community.dll?ep=16&groupid=392226&ck=>

When the final locate is ready, I will publish it in the newsletter, or maybe John can figure out a copy and paste scheme. He is great with the computer.

JBS

