

## 1969 NAPP CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The '69 Convention is now history. This Convention, as the five that preceded it, was great. Our host, R. K. "Preacher" Smith and his West-Coast helpers, did a great job in putting together a very relaxing and yet very worthwhile Convention.

Our base of operations was the Seminary building, DeSales Hall, at the University of San Diego. It was here that we ate and slept. Hilton himself couldn't have done better in providing facilities for us.

Tuesday, July 15, we gathered in the new FAA facility at Lindberg Field and were briefed on the new direction finder (DF) installation. To prove that it works, Preacher Smith took off in 66Y and got lost. With guidance from the FSS people, he was brought back to the field. Following this, some excellent films on density altitude and wake turbulence and a few other pertinent topics were shown. The discussions that followed were very beneficial, and I'm sure we'll all be better pilots as a result of this seminar. The remainder of the day was spent at Balboa Park touring the air museum.

Following the dinner, the general meeting and election of officers was held. The following were elected: Mel Hemann, President; John Bellon, 2nd Vice President; Dick Skriba, re-elected Secretary. The major portion of the meeting was spent discussing the scholarship project NAPP is sponsoring. (A more detailed report on this is found elsewhere in the newsletter).

On Wednesday, July 16, we once again gathered at Lindberg Field in preparation for the Catalina Island Fly-In. However, the weatherman wasn't informed of our plans as the fog didn't lift till about 1:30. In many ways this proved to be very beneficial as R. K. had Arnold Senterfitt on tap to conduct a seminar for us. Arnold is "the authority" on Baja, California and his presentation was very interesting.

The fog finally lifted and, after our briefing, we departed at 2-minute intervals for Catalina. 90 miles of over-water flying and yet, never more than 19 miles from shore. The slower planes departed first with the result that we all arrived at Catalina at about the same time. All left there with a certificate testifying to the fact that they had successfully navigated the Pacific Airways.

We got back in time to dress up and attend the banquet. The highlight was a slide presentation from our dear friend, Max Conrad, on his partial trip around the world via the poles. As usual, Max held his pilot audience spell-bound, and we're all looking forward to next year when he'll show us the slides of the complete trip that he'll make this coming winter.

Thursday, July 17, found the Padres starting to scatter. Some began making their way home; others stayed for the Navy tour; some went on to Downey, California for a tour of North American Rockwell and some time in the capsule the astronauts train in.

All in all, it was a great meeting and wonderful to see the old familiar faces and meet the new ones who came to be with us. We were all struck with the reality of time passing and the consequent toll it takes on life. Very obviously missing was Carl Kurt, one of the charter members, who passed away in January. Also missing was Tom McNamara who endeared himself to all last year in Rapid City. Our greatest moment in the entire

Convention came on Wednesday morning when we Concelebrated Mass for the happy repose of these two. REQUIESCANT IN PACE. (For those of you who forgot your Latin)-May they rest in peace.

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## FLIGHT PICTURES

On the way back from Catalina Island, the eight planes involved flew in some sort of a loose formation and took pictures of each other. Because the photographers didn't have time to get them developed before most left, Bob Pool has offered to be a central clearing house for those desiring pictures.

If you have pictures of someone else or would like one of your plane in flight, write to:

Rev. Bob Pool, Box 128, Corning, Kansas 66417

He'll handle it from there.

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## SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

After trying for several years to be of some assistance in the Church's work of spreading the Gospel in a way that is of particular interest to us as pilots, we finally think that we are on the right track. You will recall from previous newsletters in past years that we have been urged by priests in the Mission lands to try and bring to our ecclesiastical authorities the value of the plane in their work. We have tried in our limited way to financially assist them. But we're not big enough, and certainly not wealthy enough, to accomplish much in that area. So it was decided at last year's Convention that a certain amount of our money would be set aside to have a student at Iowa State University do his M.A. dissertation on this topic.

At the time of this writing, we think (fingers crossed hopefully) that the student has arrived on the scene who will do this. He is a pilot and has been in Mexico this past year with his wife working with a Protestant group as their pilot. If all goes well, he will be the one who will do our project as his M.A. thesis.

The idea at present is to compile from as many sources as possible the use of the plane in Church work. We already have some good names on file to contact and if you know of anyone who has anything to add, PLEASE send it to us at the address of this newsletter.

Not only do we hope to come up with the number of planes being used at present, miles and hours flown, cost, number of people visited, etc., but we also hope to make positive recommendations for what the future trend must be.

Once this is all done, NAPP will publish this and then distribute it to the right people.

Today, when a priest asks just what NAPP can do, or is doing, we can in all honesty say that we are coming of age. Not only are we a fraternal group that enjoys each others company and try to make ourselves better pilots through education and training, but we're also going to be a very definite asset to the Catholic Church of tomorrow. If the Church is ever going to get beyond a horse and buggy mentality, we have to be the leaders. So not only our financial and moral support is important, but our prayerful support and concern for the welfare of the Church IS A MUST for all NAPP'ers.

## NAPP OFFICERS

The men who will be directly responsible for the direction of NAPP during the next year are the following elected officers:

**President:** Mel Hemann  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church  
2210 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010

**1st Vice-Pres.:** Frank Weidinger  
St. Gabriel's Church  
Chinook, Montana 59523

**2nd Vice-Pres.:** John Bellon  
Immaculate Conception Church  
918-5th Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

**Secretary:** Richard Skriba  
Saint Simon Rectory  
5157 S. California Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60632

**Treasurer:** Richard Ciurej  
Saint Stanislaus Church  
Duncan, Nebraska 68634

Mel replaces Bob Sennott who was chief pilot and navigator of NAPP these past four years. John Bellon filled the vacancy left by Mel when he was "promoted" and Dick Skriba was re-elected to another term.

We are particularly grateful to Bob for the excellent leadership he gave during these important formative years of NAPP. We hope that we can continue to make NAPP a better organization of priests by further implementing the aims and goals specified in our constitution. We will run individual biographical sketches on each officer in subsequent issues.

## AIR EDUCATION SERIES

The FAA is currently making available a great deal of literature that can be used in high schools. The Augustinians used it in their school last year and found it produced a great deal of enthusiasm and they strongly recommend looking into this program.

The FAA is looking for people on the local level who will give them some kind of support as they try to get school systems interested in the value of what they have to offer. If the opportunity presents itself, you might check with your local FSS Specialist and get more details. They're really anxious to get the word out and are looking for respected people in the community like ourselves to show some interest.

## VISITORS

July 21, Preacher Smith, John Blethen and Ray Churchill stopped off in Ames for an overnight visit. They were on their way from San Diego to Chicago on a cross country training flight. Preacher was able to give us good suggestions regarding the Convention next year and we hope we can incorporate his ideas into the program.

One suggestion that definitely should be in the newsletter is this. He said that in sending out convention notices, he received many inquiries as to where national headquarters is. There is no provision as such made in our by-laws so I suppose the logical

thing would be to say that where the president is, there is the national headquarters. For the next two years, if anyone asks or wants to know where to write for info, etc., etc. refer them to this address. That should clear up a lot of confusion.

#### ODDS AND ENDS

NAPP is badly in need of an informative brochure to hand prospective members and other interested parties. One was printed up several years ago but is now badly outdated. This is one item of business the Board discussed at their first meeting, and we are now in the process of getting one together. So it's on the way and hopefully will be completed by January.

It also was brought to our attention that some members had never received the NAPP lapel pin. These little gems are in the hands of the treasurer, Rich Clurej. If you don't have one, drop him a line.

Membership cards are being printed and in the future when dues are paid, a membership card will be sent to serve not only as a receipt but also as a reminder when we open our billfolds that we are an active member.

#### NEWSLETTER NOTES

Because of the busy life of most priests, it has been a real problem to get the newsletter out with any consistency. As of this newsletter, the whole operation has been centralized at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Mrs. Jan Warren, the secretary at the Student Center at Iowa State, has agreed to type, print, address and mail the newsletter. We feel that the newsletter is a very important link to keep all of us informed and interested in one another during the year. By centralizing the operation, we hope to get it out on a regular basis.

However, as with all newsletters, Jan can't type something and mail it to you if there ain't nothin' to type and mail. So if you take a trip somewhere or have some interesting experience or are moved or have some words of wisdom to share from something that happened to you, let us know. We're interested in one another and we learn much from that.

As we take over the operation of the newsletter here at St. Thomas, the Catholic Student Center at Iowa State, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to Ben Bauer and Dan Kealey for the tremendous amount of work they've been doing these past few years. We hope that we can now build on the sturdy foundation they've established.

This first letter from Ames lacks alot of color, etc. but this will come as we get better organized.

#### PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

If you have moved recently or will be moving in the near future, PLEASE send us your correct address.

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#### EARLY REMINDER

The convention will be in the Midwest next year.

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