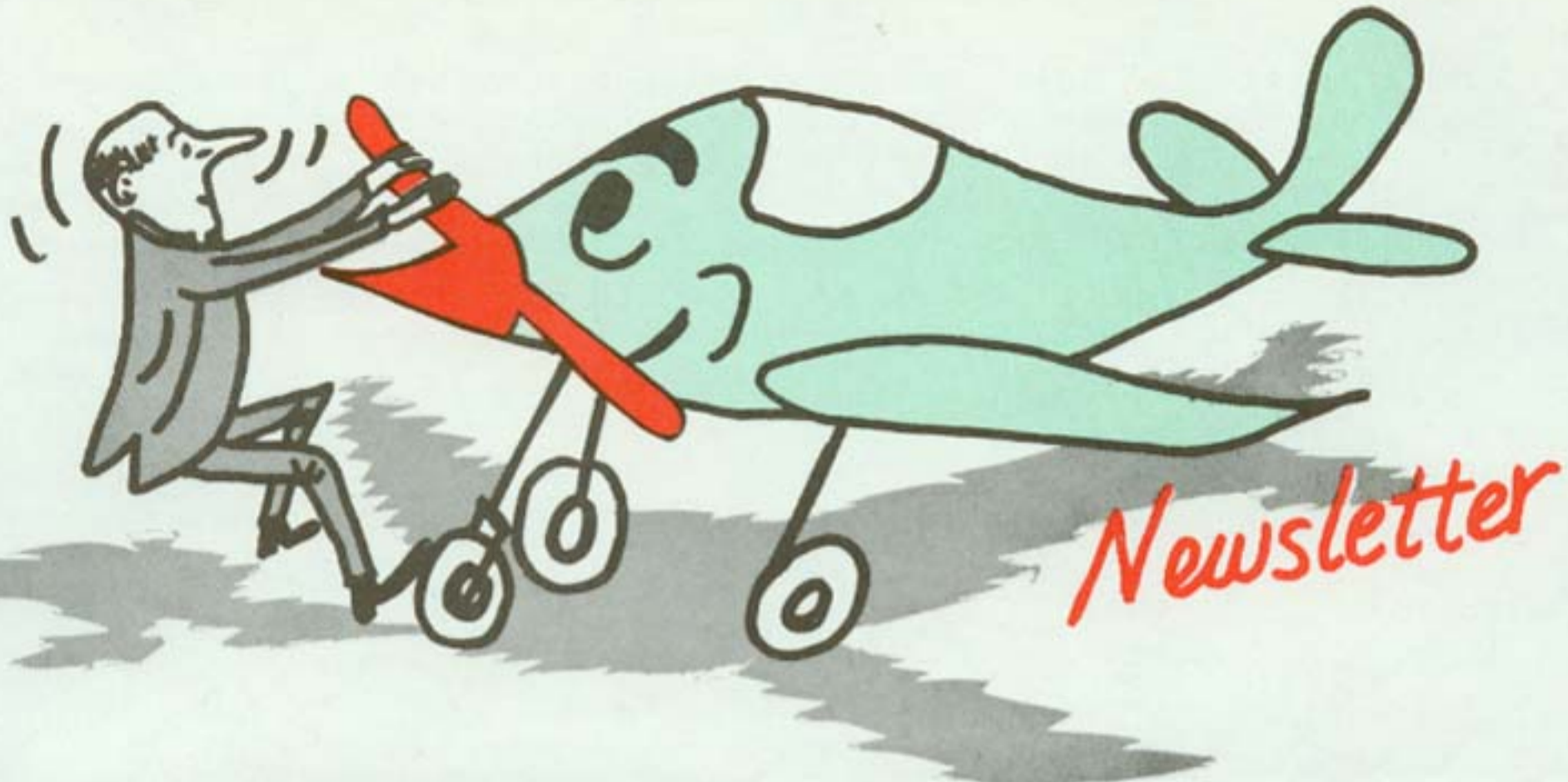


N.A.P.P.



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VOL. XXIII

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NO. 4

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past month or so many of you have received an invitation from Don Orlando, Director of Public Relations for St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania for a fly-in on Sunday, March 16. St. Vincent is about 40 miles east of Pittsburgh. It is the site of the oldest Benedictine Monastery in the United States. The majority of Pittsburgh priests attended St. Vincent Seminary. It is the home of the famous golfer, Arnie Palmer. Arnie is a pilot and his private jet is based at the Latrobe Airport, just two miles or so from the college. For a good many years the Pittsburgh Steelers have trained there. Now a coed college, the Benedictines have been trying to increase enrollment by focusing their attention on their fine academic standards as well as their proximity to the Latrobe Airport. The Airport is one of the most modern facilities in the country; it has runways long enough to accomodate commercial jets. Thus far over 100 inquiries have been received about the College. The famous summer and winter resort known as Seven Springs is less than an hour away. Perhaps you might know of somebody in your parish who might be interested in St. Vincent College.

In the early part of January, I traveled with a group of people from Pittsburgh to Rome to attend the Ordination of one of our priests to the rank of Bishop. He is the Most Reverend Donald Wuerl, now Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle.

Don was one of the bright lights of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

He attended the North American College for four years and served for ten years in Rome as Secretary to John Cardinal Wright. We had an excellent place at the Ordination Ceremonies ... better than the Cardinals. The next day we had a private audience with the Holy Father.

I will now let Mel take over with announcements of interest to all. He will bring you up to date with the preparations for our annual meeting - this year in New Mexico.

John A. Dompka



1. The first item of information is a sad one. On January 11, 1986 one of our members, Henry Weckerle was killed in the crash of his Cessna 182. He was pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Savanna, Illinois.

Henry based his plane at the Clinton, Iowa airport in the hangar next to the one our club is in. As his faithful housekeeper told me the night of the accident, "Next to his priesthood he loved flying more than anything."

Over the past four years there were many times I saw Henry at the airport, messing around with the 182. On nice days time away was often just going to the airport, pulling the plane out and keeping it cleaned up. Sometimes he went for a short spin around the patch. Most times there was not sufficient time so he pushed it back in. But he did have time to be with what he loved.

Over the years he told me many times, "Sometime I want you to go up with me. I want to learn how to use the radios. I also want to put the hood on and get comfortable with the instruments." We just never got around to doing that.

On Friday afternoon, January 11, I was driving to a nursing home for Mass. I began my drive in CAVU conditions. Suddenly I was in foggy conditions. A warm front began moving in. As it moved over the recent snow cover it formed one of those freakish situations of low visibility that suddenly forms.

Henry had mentioned to his housekeeper that he might fly to Dubuque. Apparently he took off on runway 32 which put him on a pretty direct course to Dubuque. This was about 3:00 PM. Around 8:00 the housekeeper called the FBO and said he hadn't returned. Investigation showed his plane gone and his car in the hangar. The next morning around 8:00 AM two fox hunters reported finding the plane that turned out to be Henry's.

The investigation showed a heading back toward the airport. As of this writing I do not have anything on the autopsy report. If that shows nothing physically caused the accident then the presumption is that vertigo did.

Another pilot left the airport about 30 minutes after Henry. He reported about five miles out hitting the fog bank that necessitated flying instruments. He was on top at about 1200' AGL.

I write at a length on this particular accident because it is perhaps one of those times that we can learn from another. Also because I am so close to it.

Henry was strictly a "fair weather" pilot. He never took chances. His accident points out that one can get caught in the unexpected and it doesn't take long after that for the inevitable to occur.

During one of the TV newscasts following the accident one of the stations ran an interview with Henry some time back. He was seated on his porch and the interviewer got around to his love of flying. Henry said, "If I would have my choice as to how to go that would be a beautiful way."

May the Lord grant him eternal rest as He granted his last request.

2. Elsewhere in the newsletter will be found three important items. The first of these is the reservations form for the summer convention. Also an agenda as host Bob Kirsch has outlined it for us.

Secondly a reminder about the Midwest Spring regional meeting in May.

Thirdly, the latest list I have on reservations for our commercial-instrument VHS tapes.

3. Each year we put out the NAPP Directory in April. Normally we put together a pictorial directory every other year. The last time we did it the printer informed me that the pictures we'd been using for quite a number of years had run their course.

If you want your picture in this year's edition please get a picture to me as soon as possible. They prefer a passport size, black and white. However, we can make do with anything you send us.

Thanks to those of you who have sent yours already.

4. We are about ready to begin the task of preparing the informational brochure. We have received a variety of pictures from members and we hope to incorporate them in what we eventually put together.

5. Bob Kirsch would like to make this summer's convention one that will involve more flying than we've done for a number of years. The agenda explains this in more detail.

One of the other prospects for the convention is the opportunity to ride with a CFI. My brother Ev and I will be at the convention and will be happy to offer our time to anyone who needs a BFR or just a general brushing up. Perhaps some of the other NAPP members who are CFI's would be interested in making the same offer. Let me know and I'll keep the membership informed via this newsletter.

Our attempts at sharpening our skills could be a lasting tribute to people like Henry.

6. As of this writing, February 16, we have around 75 members who have returned their dues envelope to Charlie. Thank you from us! Those of you who have not responded will find a dues reminder envelope enclosed with this mailing. Please return it immediately.

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## COMMERCIAL-INSTRUMENT

1. Dick Skriba  
Queen of the Universe  
7114 S. Hamlin Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629

2. James Quinn  
St. Patrick's Church  
9 Leroy St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905

3. John T. Walsh  
783 Hard Road  
Webster, NY 14580

4. Don Eder  
11441 Hague Road  
Noblesville, IN 46060

5. Frank Mouch  
307 N. Nassau  
Venice, FL 33595

WHEN YOU FINISH WITH THE TAPES, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE NEXT ONE ON THE LIST.

# BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE---

From England:

20, Church Road  
West Kirby  
Wirral,  
Merseyside L48 0RW  
ENGLAND  
8th Jan. '86

Dear Sirs;

I am the brother and executor of your member:  
REV. TED CONWAY  
ST. EDWARD'S,  
WINCHESTER ROAD  
CHANDLERS FORD SO5 2DU

I am sorry to have to inform you that he died suddenly on the 18th December at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, to where he had recently moved, aged 62.

Do not trouble to reply to this letter unless there is any matter that requires further attention on my part. I know he enjoyed membership of your association and I would wish to thank your Canadian and American members for the hearty welcome he received during his visits.

J.E. Conway

(ED NOTE): Ted joined NAPP at the Oshkosh Convention. No doubt many of the conventioners remember him).

From Bonn, Germany:

3 January 1986

Liebe Priesterpiloten!



grussen aus Deutschland! I'm sure your German will carry you this far. Thanks so much for always interesting Newsletters - truly sorry I can't make the meetings but being here in Germany does have its drawbacks - although when you read I was back in the US four times in '85 may make you wonder.

All goes well here with me and the parish and the Embassy. We do have our moments with bomb scares, etc. The German police patrol our area with radio cars and the fascinating Panzerwagens - which are miniature tanks with water cannon which shoot out at great speed streams of colored water to identify rioters, etc. It makes for interesting days.

I know the dues are \$10, but thought you could use a little more because of inflation and the public debt!

Also, here is a picture. Sorry about the grim look. It's a passport job. You know the old story. If you really look like your passport photo, you really need the vacation.

William L. Travers, O. Carm.

From Venice, Florida:

December 13, 1985

Dear Mel,

Having returned to Florida, where I now work in the Chancery of the Diocese of Venice, I am doing more flying VFR and looking for the opportunities for IFR time. This Florida weather spoils me.

Enclosed please find a photo, as requested in the last newsletter -- a bit late, but hardly so by southern time.

I would be interested in using the video tape you wrote about for instrument/commercial review. Please put my name on the list. I presume that you have VHS available.

Even though I have been with the group from its inception, I have yet to make a convention. Perhaps you will want to come south sometime to heat the ice from your wings. We have a fine airport in this small See city.

Fraternally in the Lord,

Frank Mouch

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MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING -- Monday, May 5, 1986. Sacred Heart Church, Rolette, ND 58356  
Contact: Adam Engelhardt, Box 127, Rolette, ND 58356. 701-246-3449.  
COME EARLY AND STAY LATE!!! See December issue for all the gummy details. BE THERE!

From Madawaska, Maine:

January 4, 1986

Dear Charles,

Somehow I've misplaced the NAPP envelope. You people are doing great work for the Priest Pilots. My flying days are just about over. However I still like to belong to the Association of Priest Pilots. Best wishes for a blessed New Year.

Always yours in the Lord,  
Gilman Chaloult

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From Westminster, Colorado: Nick Norusis writes the following with his dues:

Sorry to hear about Emu Weber's death. He stayed overnight here while preparing for the Colorado Springs Convention.

Nick

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From Oakley, Kansas:



Somewhere in the news letter you were asking for new photos for a new directory it seems to me -- not so sure anymore.

Since we had a school photo session not long ago I have lots on hand and am mailing one now. I liked the directory and pull it out every once in a while to look someone up whose name I run across and not too sure of. An updated one will be nice. Thanks.

Al Werth

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From Northville, New York:

January 8, 1986

Dear Mel,

My new address is: St. Francis Church  
501 Bridge St., P.O. Box 126  
Northville, NY 12134  
518-863-4736

As you can see from the picture we have a bit of snow (2 feet), but unfortunately I haven't been able to put the skis on the plane and I also have a carburetor problem. But hopefully that will be licked.

Best for '86,  
Vic Schoenberger.

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## 1986 CONVENTION

The official 1986 NAPP Convention dates are July 8 and 9. The hosts will be ready to receive conventions goers on Sunday, July 6 and Monday, July 7.

Fly into LAS CRUCES INTERNATIONAL. 9 miles west of the city.  
NDB approach.

Sunday: Happy Hour at the Retreat where we will be housed.  
Monday: Barbecue and swim at a private home.

Tuesday: A.M. - fly to Carlsbad Caverns. Lunch and tour there.  
- Time to go to the White Sands Missile range.  
P.M. - siesta around 2:00  
- bus tour to Juarez, Mexico

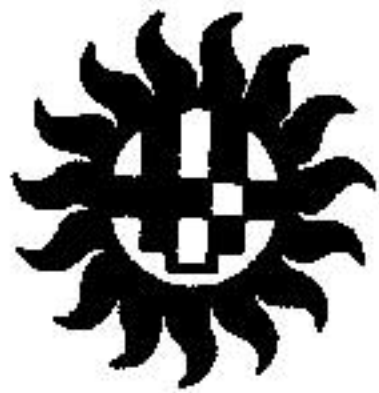
WEDNESDAY:

A.M. - Executive Board meeting.  
- 9:30 - General meeting.  
- 10:30 - leave for airport  
- opportunity for air work: with instructor.  
-- competition: sport landing contest; flour bombing, etc.  
-- practice NDB approaches  
-- prizes for winners  
P.M. - siesta ----- 5:00 P.M. - Mass at the Cathedral  
- evening banquet

Thursday: A.M. - departures.

Anyone wanting to fly into Mexico will have an opportunity that morning for a thorough briefing. Charts will also be available.

# - It's Las Cruces, N.M.



## For Sun & Fun

### Since 1535-



JULY 8 - 9 -- 1986

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL BY:

\_\_\_ private plane N \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ commercial flight # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ car

ETA \_\_\_\_\_  
date/time

ETD \_\_\_\_\_  
date/time

RESERVATIONS TO:

Edwina Tabares  
5409 Punta Alta NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
505-836-4676