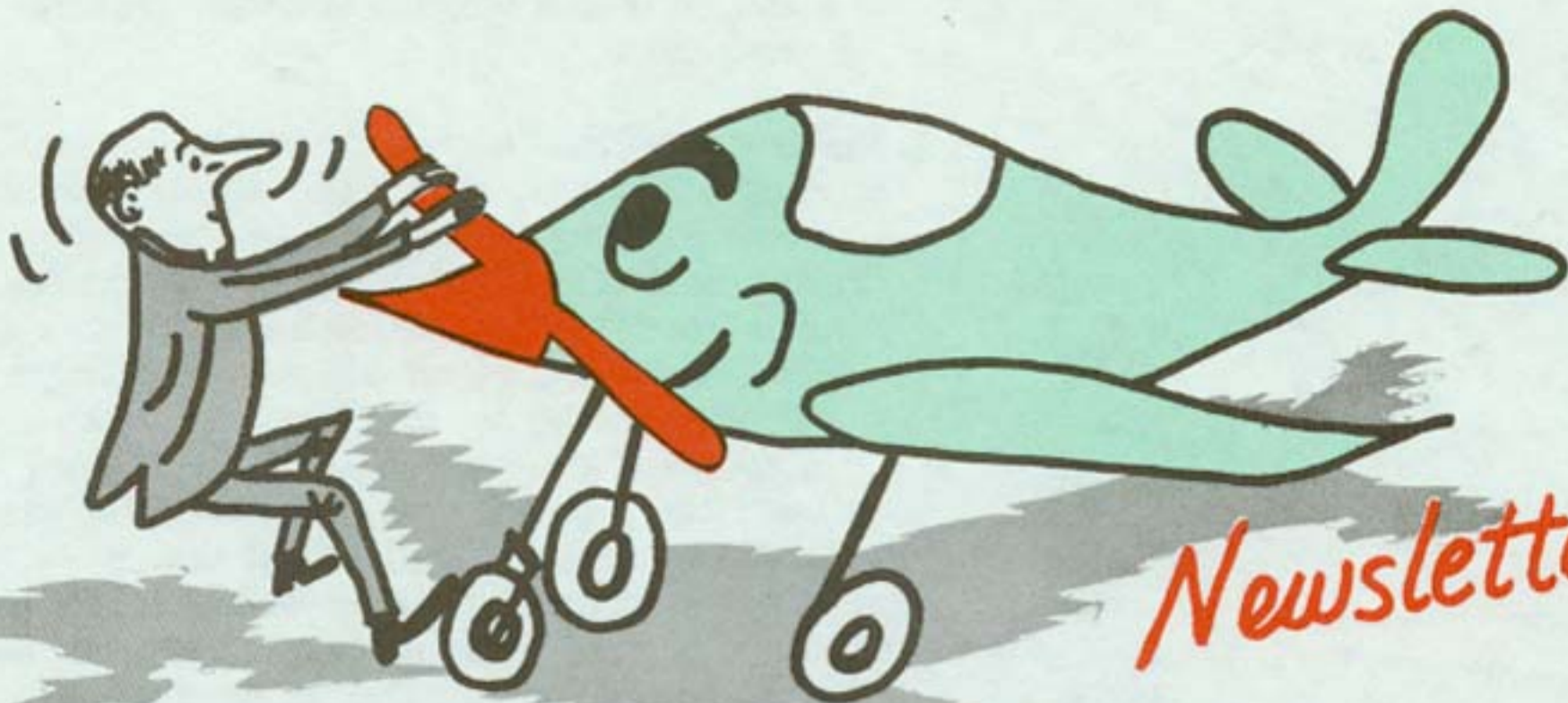


N.A.P.P.



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VOLUME XVII

OCTOBER 1989

NO. 2

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The school halls are hummin';  
Leaves are fallin'; Soy beans and corn  
are in golden harvest. October air in  
Iowa is truly refreshing. Cooler air  
and the scenery are a plus for pilots.

A Midwest regional meeting (October  
2) was hosted by Jack Paisley of Decorah  
Iowa. We were treated to good food, companionship, sites and  
tours. We who came late (funerals) were impressed at the final  
stop by the high technology and complexity of making radios and  
radars for airliners. Rockwell-Collins has one of their  
factories in Decorah.

Archbishop Frank of Anchorage writes his greetings. He is  
already looking skyward for the NAPP squadron due in July. His  
201 Mooney will no doubt be shined up.

It's off to the annual Retreat and a few days R & R for me.  
We hope "HUGO" has no trailers.

Fraternally yours,

*Frank Neimera*

This edition of the NAPP newsletter features the following items:



1. Pictures from the October 1 Midwest Regional meeting in Decorah, Iowa. Ten members were present and enjoyed the day in the nearby Czech village of Spillville. The Old World Inn specializes in authentic Czech dinners which, needless to say, we all enjoyed. The world famous hand-carved Bily Brothers clocks intrigued every one. In 1929 Henry Ford offered the brothers a million dollars for one but they refused. They willed the entire collection to the village, never to be broken up as nor to be sold. They are now housed in the building where Antonin Dvorak lived when he spent a summer in Spillville. The day

concluded with a tour of the Collins plant in Decorah and luscious dinner. Thanks, Jack, for a great day.

*2 The BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE features several letters from members plus copies of two newspaper accounts. One is about 1990 host, Archbishop Frank Hurley of Anchorage and his trip to Russia. The other about an Iowa priest pilot who pre-dated NAPP by many years and died recently. It is from the August 10 issue of the Sioux City GLOBE. You may also find the letter from Dick Skriba about former NAPP member Paul O'Connor an interesting item. Paul attended several meetings in the early days of NAPP and we hope he now enjoys in eternity the peace and comfort that was not his in these past years.*

3. A reminder: the 1990 Convention will be in Anchorage on Wednesday and Thursday, July 18-19. This is a week later than usual and a day later in the week than usual to enable pilots to arrive in time for the convention. After the first of the year we will begin including reservation forms. Included in the BRIEFS section is Raymond R. Lagesse, S.J.'s acceptance of hosting the convention in St. Louis in 1991. Those dates will be July 9-10.

*4 The Spring Midwest Regional meeting will be hosted by "yours truly" in Preston, IA on Monday, April 23. Airport of Entry is the Clinton, IA airport.*

#### 5. CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

1. Rev. Bert Pepowski, O.F.M.  
12915 Parrish St. Box 156  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Rev. Anthony Gendusa, MSC  
CM ANIR-FENI Island NIP  
Malekolan Airstrip FMB  
P.O. Rabaul  
Papua, New Guinea

Rev. Mark A. Haight  
St. Joseph Church  
236 First Street  
Scotia, NY 12302  
518-346-2316

Rev. Jon F. Majarucon  
St. Mark Church  
940 Coeur D'Alene Ave.  
Venice, CA 90291  
213-823-4651

#### INADVERTANTLY OMITTED IN THE DIRECTORY:

Rev. Msgr. Gerard J. Gefell  
RD. 1 Box 291  
Cape Vincent, NY 13618



# BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

(The following from two JOHNS)

*St. Mary's Rectory*

796 BOSTON ROAD  
PINEHURST, MASS. 01868

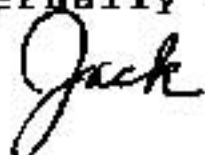
21 August, 1989

Dear John,

Just returned from my vacation to the west coast and thought I should go to work on the fallout from the convention. Enclosed is a check for the overcharge to do with as you see fit. The return would not be much so they would be happy to leave it in the bank.

Had a fine flight except that the vacuum pump quit in CA and so I lost my gyros and autopilot. After 40 years of flying who needs such fancy equipment? Enjoyed the gang and think all were pleased.


Praternally in Christ



Jack Lawler

St. Boniface Catholic Community

P.O. Box 4087  
Tipton, Kansas 67485

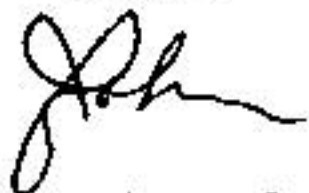


Mel,

Received this note from "General Jack." So much understatement!! His new radios, autopilot & all failed! Makes my old '47 hands on with a wet vac look good although the bottom is always oily!!!

The check was for \$200.00 which I put in our NAPP account.

Peace!



John Wolesky

-----  
This one from Sister Margaret Mary, O.P., Albuquerque:

Dear Father Mel,

A quick note to say hello and thank you for continuing to send the NAPP Newsletter, which I enjoy. Had my biennial last November and must say it was not nearly as much fun as our flight near Las Cruces several years ago. I got a prize for the

spot-landing contest - hope you did also. My prize was a spaghetti fork with twirling handles! I sent it to my brother-in-law for his birthday. He was delighted. The article about Fr. Damien was fascinating. I am sharing that with the Sisters. We had a successful Fiesta late May. Don't know how we get through all of these activities and events. We have week-long private retreats this week after other week-longs of Sisters and Priests. This is a wonderful ministry but like all other ministeries it is bottomless and endless. Hope you all have a grand time in Boston. I am hoping to get there mid-August to visit a niece. Have never been there and understand it is a great place. We will be going to the Pilgrim Village and hopefully to a concert on the river. Also have been told not to miss the No Name Restaurant.

The thought of Anchorage is really intriguing. Don't know how I would manage that. Went on my annual wilderness retreat for a blessed week down in the Gila. Stayed in a ghost town - some 12 people still live there. Had a quiet time and recuperated somewhat. Then went to camp at Wall Lake for a few days. Shared the lake with beaver, bright orange dragonflies and a multi-colored snake who liked to rest in the shade under my chair.

Hello to everyone.



Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus

August 23, 1989

Reverend Frank Nemmers  
NAPP  
St. Joseph Church  
Box 309  
Preston, Iowa 52069

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your most recent letter and packet of information regarding the NAPP. Congratulations to you on your new position as president of the organization and prayers and best wishes for a most successful tenure.

You included a biographical sketch of yourself and that sketch aptly describes a well founded family and one which values highly good catholic education. Good for you and thank you for telling the members a little bit about yourself. - 4 -

Though some ten or so years after you did, I also went to Minnesota for undergraduate studies and to your archrival school, St. Thomas. Good years and good memories during a particularly turbulent time.

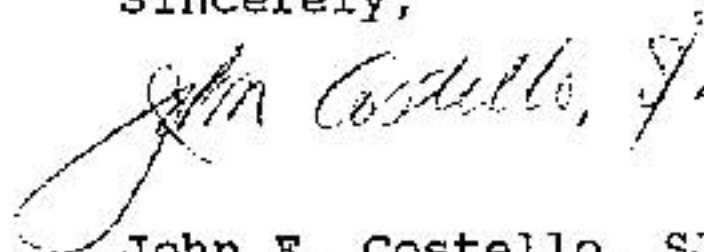
While at St. Thomas, I spent a semester in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I studied at Ivan Illich's Center. Such study prepared me for a four year stint as a Jesuit Volunteer in Arequipa, Peru. Eventually, I gave up outdistancing the Lord and am happily and more formally in his service now about 15 years. Ten of those years have included flying rented airplanes which continue to fascinate and delight me.

I read with eagerness and excitement the account of Fr. Bob Kirsch regarding my Jesuit brother, Jose Alberto Llaguno, Bishop of Tarahumara. Along with my prayers for Jose Alberto and his ministry I will send Bob Kirsch's letter to AnnMarie Mitchell and John Davis, two close pilot friends who have a special devotion to St. Ignatius. Perhaps they might help Bob's efforts to extend the pastoral range of that Cherokee 235's sheepish pilot.

Also included find the name of Paul Macke, SJ, a new member of the Chicago Province Staff recently returned from assignment in Alaska. Paul is a private pilot and might be interested in joining the NAPP.

Here's to CAVU days and centered needles as well as prayers for you and your ministry out there in "the cornfields of Iowa," as you say.

Sincerely,



John F. Costello, SJ

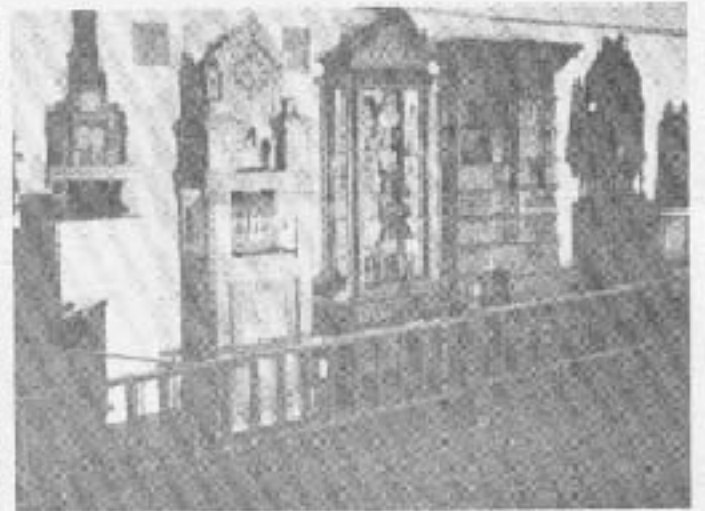
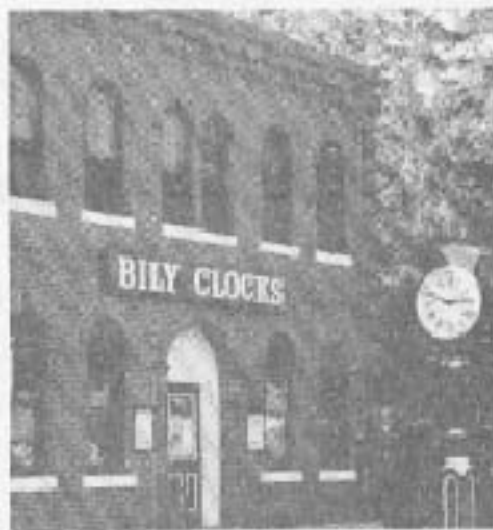
cc: AnnMarie Mitchell  
John Davis  
Paul Macke, SJ



**ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

REV. MEL HEMANN  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BOX 309  
PRESTON, IOWA 52069

Visit  
**SPILLVILLE**  
 Home of  
*Antonin Dvorak*  
 and  
*The BILY CLOCKS*



Pictured above is the group outside the Old World Inn after lunch. (2 Row). House occupied by Antonin Dvorak where the Bily Brothers clocks are displayed. (3 Row). St. Wenceslaus Church where Dvorak played the organ. (Below). Group outside Collins plant in Decatur.



# Archbishop Finds Soviets Ignorant of Religion, Curious

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (CNS)—On a three-week July visit to the eastern reaches of the Soviet Union, Archbishop Francis T. Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska, said he found wide ignorance of religion but signs of tentative openness to God.

The new Soviet policy of "perestroika," or openness, is being felt not only in the economic and political fields but in deeper stirrings of the human spirit, he said.

"There's a deep sense of curiosity" about many areas of life formerly closed to them, he said.

HE CELEBRATED Mass before a group of scientists, most of whom had never met a priest or bishop before, and explained something of his faith to them by analogies with nature, life cycles and the environment.

When a young scientist from a Moscow university told him she was an atheist "but sometimes I ask for help," he asked her who she asked. "I don't know but I hope I get an answer," she said.

Interviewed by telephone after his return to the United States, Archbishop Hurley said he went as one of 49 U.S. doctors, nurses and scientists and other specialists on an expedition sponsored by the University of Alaska's Institute for Circumpolar Health.

HE SAID technically he went as a sociologist—he has a master's degree in sociology—but made no secret of his being a bishop or his interest in Soviets' religious attitudes.

The group boarded a Soviet research ship, the Alexander Venogradof, and crossed the Bering Strait from Nome, Alaska, to Provideniya in the Magadan region, east of Siberia.

From Provideniya the group flew about 1,200

miles west to their main destination, Magadan, a port city of about 160,000 people on the Sea of Okhotsk and capital of the region. Despite the long trip west, they were still more than 3,000 mile east of Moscow, Archbishop Hurley noted.

IN A REGION where the cities and towns were largely established as forced-labor camps or mining outposts under communist rule, there is no religious tradition, he said. After he celebrated a Mass there, officials presented him with a book inscribed, "To priest—the first Catholic in Magadan."

He said that during his stay he met with a newly ordained Orthodox priest just recently sent there to build the first church in Magadan's 50-year history.

He said that during a trip to a small town called Aborigen, he met many people who seemed eager to talk about the town's origins as a forced-labor camp, built over the bodies of slave laborers under Stalin.

HE SAID when he asked why people were talking so much about it, he was told, "Because we're just learning about it ourselves."

Another side trip that he and five others in his group took from Magadan was to a research station on the Yana River where scientists were studying the growth and migration of birds.

One of the eight people at the station "was a man from Czechoslovakia, who was the only Catholic I met on the trip," the archbishop said.

WHEN THE man learned he was a Catholic bishop "he was very excited. Until recently (when several new bishops were appointed) there were only three bishops in Czechoslovakia, and he told me he'd only seen one once," he archbishop said.

On another occasion, he said, "when a fellow I met on a ferry boat found out I was an archbishop, he quickly made the Sign of the Cross. He told me his grandmother had taught it to him when he was little."

When he asked the man if he believed in God, he answered "I believe in the goodness of people."

AS HE ASKED different people what they believed in during the course of his visit, another answer he received a couple of times was "I believe in the future," he said.

Even those who described themselves as believers had only vague knowledge about the Bible or religious truths, he said.

Among non-believers, some were curious about religion but others were not. "I'm just not interested in religion," one scientist told him.

ARCHBISHOP Hurley thought the atmosphere of "perestroika," however, has opened up new doors for the Soviet people to ask questions about many things, including religion.

## Final farewell for flying father

Funeral services were held for Benedictine Father Blase Schumacher, a native of Willey and former diocesan pastor, on Aug. 7 in the Benedictine Abbey Chapel in Shawnee, OK.

Fr. Schumacher, 83, died Aug. 5 at the Shawnee Care Center from complications following a fall in May.

The principal celebrant of the mass was Archbishop Charles A. Salatka of Oklahoma City, OK. Among the concelebrants was Rev. Leo Schumacher of Fort Dodge, twin brother to Fr. Blase. Burial was at the Benedictine Community Cemetery on the campus of St. Gregory Abbey.

Carl Schumacher was born Aug. 15, 1905, in the family home near Willey, a son of Matthias and Mary (Bielmaier) Schumacher. He was raised in a family of 15 children — seven boys and eight girls. Six of the girls entered Religious life and Fr. Blase studied for the priesthood with his brother, Fr. Leo.

He attended St. Mary Grade School in Willey and high school at Conception, MO, and Collegeville, MN. He received his



Fr. Blase Schumacher, OSB

Bachelor of Arts degree at Loras College in Dubuque. He was awarded master's degrees from St. John University, Collegeville, MN and Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

While attending St. John University, he decided to join the Benedictines and received the name Blase. He was ordained a priest June 10, 1934, in Collegeville.

When the Benedictine Community in Shawnee, requested more teachers, he volunteered to move to Oklahoma.

He received many honors for St. Gregory's Abbey, through his work as student athletic director.

In the mid 1940s, he gained notoriety as the "Flying Priest of the Rockies," the only priest in Colorado and Utah who made use of an airplane in his parochial work. His territory, based in Vernal, Utah, comprised about 10,000 square miles in Colorado and Utah. Later, he was assigned to parishes in Los Angeles, CA; the Bahama Islands, Oklahoma and Lenox, IA.

He served several months at St. Malachy Parish, Madrid in 1978 and was pastor of St. Brigid Parish, Grand Junction and its mission of St. John, Paton, from 1978-84. He retired in 1984 to the Benedictine Monastery in Shawnee.

Survivors include three brothers: a twin brother, Fr. Leo of Fort Dodge and Paul and Ed Schumacher, both of Carroll; four sisters, Bertha Schumacher and Mrs. Cecilia Thorup, both of Des Moines; and Sisters Marita and Carolyn Schumacher of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at La Crosse, WI.

# Queen of the Universe Church

7114 South Hamlin Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60629

Sept .6, 1989

Dear Mel,

It's been a while since I jotted a note to you, not necessarily in the newsletter but for your own edification. This is in 2 parts.

I'm saddened that I couldn't make Boston this year. Our Cherokee went in for an oil change in early June and I didn't get it back until August because in the meanwhile the aux fuel pump went out and after 4 weeks of calling all over the country for a replacement, it finally got installed. Then on the first flite to check it out the voltage regulator caved in and that was 2 more weeks of waiting for the repair. On Sunday before the Boston Convention, knowing that I couldn't use the Cherokee, I was on the way to Midway airport to try to get a commercial flite and got rear-ended and my car was laid up for my whole vacation. Pretty lousy summer so far, eh? But the worst was yet to come.

I think you know that Paul O'Connor with whom I went to Zambia to deliver the Helio Courier was afflicted with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). I've been in touch with him, calling him on the phone and visiting him a couple of times in Detroit where he had a nice apartment. He became involved with the Muscular Distrophy Association and they asked him to be on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. To that end, I sent the African film to them and they made a video dub and used some parts of it for the 11 minute spot they planned for him. The MDA flew him and a Franciscan brother who cared for him the last 8 months, to Las Vegas on Wednesday before Labor Day. Apparently Paul was very weak but he went anyway. On Thursday he was so sick that he was hospitalized with pneumonia and he died on Friday morning. Jerry Schmeltz and I are driving to Detroit for the funeral on Friday (9-8).

So all in all it really has been a crummy summer. Perhaps some of the NAPPERS would remember Paul in their prayers. Admittedly, he hasn't been an active member but he was a fine priest pilot.

Hopefully, the next letter wont be such a downer.

In Xto.  
*Dick Purita*



# Jesuit Community

AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Jesuit Hall  
3601 Lindell Boulevard  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63108  
(314) 658-2588

June 21, 1989

Rev. Mel Hemann  
P. O. Box 309  
Preston, IA 52069

Dear Mel,

I received your June 16th offer to host the 1991 NAPP Convention in the St. Louis area. I now know that I shall remain at Saint Louis University for the foreseeable future, therefore, I would like to host our flying padres in 1991. My schedule should allow this. I am open to some date suggestions.

I just returned from business in New England and now shall not be able to attend this year's convention. Please give my regrets to the gang and that I wish them a good time in God's country!

After this year's convention, I expect that I shall hear from you later in the summer.

Peace,



Raymond R. Lagesse, S. J.

## COMMERCIAL / INSTRUMENT

1. Edwina Tabares  
5409 Punta Alta NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

2. Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Sennott  
11 Collier Road  
P. O. Box 825  
Scituate, MA 02066-0007

# OSHKOSH - 1989



Left - B29

Below: Russian Cargo Plane...  
Largest production  
plane in the world



Right: B1 Bomber

