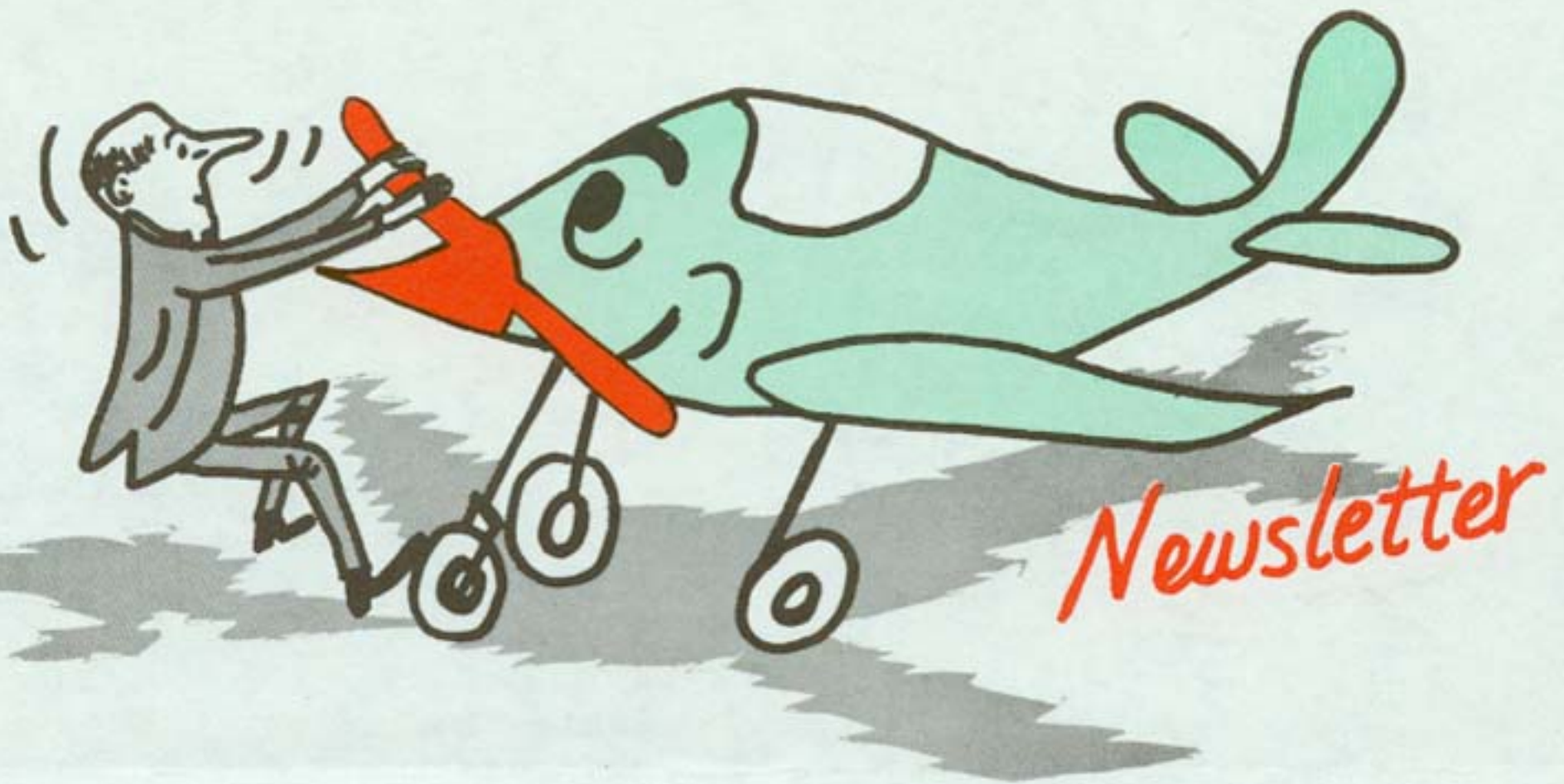


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXX

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NO. 2



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's new? For one, the political scene is ambivalent and tedious. Choose your own adverbs. To take the larger view, when the more affluent parts of the globe honestly address the matters of justice to the other two-thirds maybe we'll see more clearly how the Lord would have us vote, etc. Meanwhile some of acharismatic leaders try to reach out and touch as the Lord empowers. Spiritus supplicet.

Besides school and CCD openings, an annual retreat, Parish and Diocesan meetings and projects abound. Is this Purgatory (sic) or what?

I found that a drooping Lycoming needs new (praise the) lord mounts Those donuts are rubber-gold. Where are the super- mechanics like Tilia, Kirsch, Lawler, etc. when we need their patience and socket wrenches!

Best wishes for a pleasant Fall. Enjoy, before the Canadian Clippers attack.

Frank Nemmers

Frank Nemmers



A few words about the 2nd issue of Volume XXX.

1. This issue contains something on the Midwest's Fall Regional meeting. The pictures turned out this time so there is some evidence of what transpired. NAPP President Frank Nemmers did a wonderful job of hosting us. All together 18, comprised of NAPP members and a few local flying buffs, were present. The main item on the agenda was a tour of the South Dakota Air Guard. Our guide was Bob Ray, one of three active duty Air Force personnel, who is assisting the Guard in transitioning from the A-7s to the newly acquired F-16s. All agreed it was one of the finest and most informative tours we'd ever been on. What gave it that special flair was the fact that Bob is a GA pilot and flies around NW Iowa in his recently acquired T Craft. This T Craft is the plane in which Bob learned to fly. His Dad located the plane not too long ago and surprised Bob with this gift.

2. Ed Higgins will host the Spring meeting in Pontiac, Illinois on Monday, May 10. The agenda for the day will consist of a tour of the prison near Pontiac. Those

attending will be required to send their Social Security number to Ed so the proper clearances can be complied with. There'll be more on this later.

3. Some initial plans have been formulated for the National convention in San Antonio next July 6 & 7. Our base of operations will be OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR Retreat House, a short distance from the airport. As plans develop we'll keep you informed. Meanwhile, get those dates on the calendar.

4. There's something in this issue about two NAPP members. One is from KINSHIP, the Glenmary Sisters magazine. It's about Bill Travers in Bonn, Germany.

The other is from the August 24 issue of the Washington Post and features a story on The Carnival Priest, John Vakulskas, Jr.

5. In September I attended the Marriage Return conference at St. Anthony on Hudson near Albany, NY. I had the opportunity to see former NAPP member Vic Schoenberger. Vic suffers from arteriosclerosis and they don't know how much he understands. The only communication he is capable of today is to say "yes, yes." Physically he is in wonderful shape. I told him I would share this bit of news about him in the newsletter. He smiled and said, "Yes, yes."

6. Won't it be great to have the elections over? The sad part of it is some one will no doubt start running for the 1996 elections the day after this one ends. I have often thought it would be great if the millions of dollars spent on the campaigns could be spent on the poor and needy it just might be a better world.

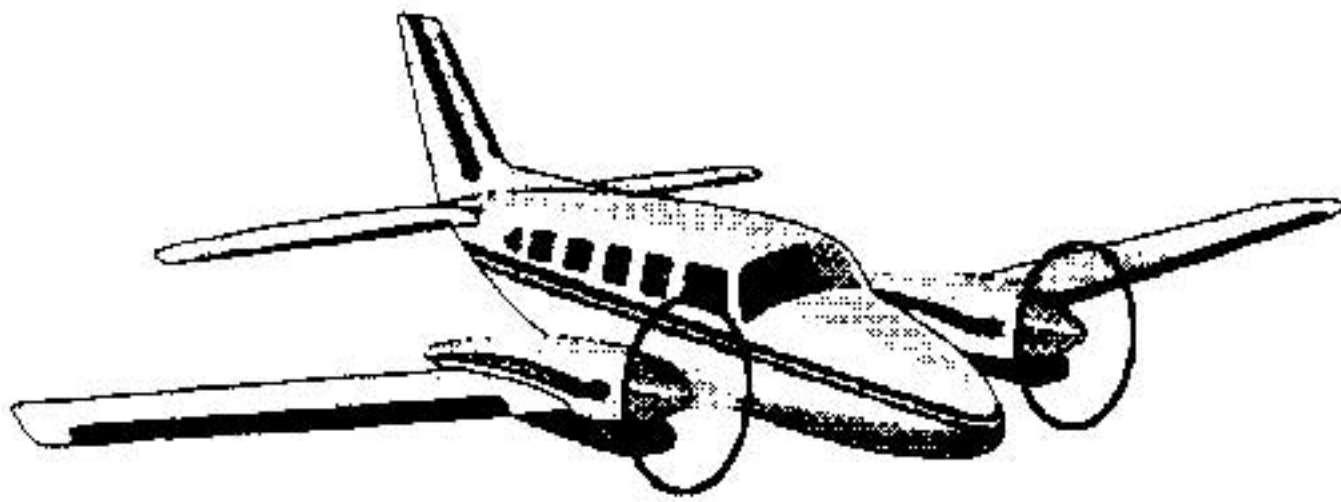
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BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

THE CARNIVAL PRIEST

By Marla Harper The Washington Post August 24, 1992

The carnival workers, 125 strong, are standing, holding hands, with their bowed. Muscular men and sturdy women linked for a moment of Sunday morning prayer. "I know you guys work your fannies off," Father John says. "You work late. You get up early." There is a murmur of agreement and gratitude.

The Carnival Priest is in town. His altar is a small table in front of the red-and-white-striped bingo tent. What's billed as the largest portable Ferris wheel in the world looms in the distance. It's standing room only, a full house. "We'll have the baptism now," says the Rev. John Vakulskas Jr.....

The carnival priest's parishioners are the workers at the 44th annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg. They are in jeans and T-shirts. All have outdoor tans. Some don't know the Catholic prayers, but that's not an issue. The newly baptized baby's parents are Protestant. All souls welcome.

Vakulskas is one of two Catholic priests on the show circuit in the United States, and soon he'll be the only one; his colleague, the Rev. Robert McCarthy of New York, is planning to retire. Part of the U.S. Catholic Conference Bureau of Pastoral Ministry to Migrants and Refugees, their unique ministry gained Vatican recognition in 1986.

But Vakulskas has been riding the circuit 23 years. "Most full-time carnival workers grew up in the business," he says. "Their problems are the same as any family's. It's really interesting that the politicians are pushing the family. The fairs and carnivals have been pushing family all these years. It's families behind all the booths, all the rides."

According to the Showman's League of

America, there are 450 carnivals in the United States employing half a million people. Some are Ma-and-Pa operations. Some are big conglomerates. (No animal acts—that's the circus). Workers say they like the carnival life because there's a lot of freedom. Says rides superintendent John Tillery, "You open the door in the morning, and if you don't like your neighbors, you move."

But that mobility makes getting to Mass or any other church on Sunday, one of the workers' busiest days, impossible without the carnival priest. Carnies don't have a great reputation for piety, but Vakulskas finds it otherwise.

"I love being a priest," he says. "I love bringing the sacraments to the people, wherever they are. That's what Jesus did. That's what I do."

He baptizes babies, counsels the distraught, blesses relationships and administers the sacraments to the carnival workers, who call him Father John.

"We make it every Sunday," says John Vogel Jr. of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl, foreman of the Falling Star and Giant Wheel rides. "It's mandatory for my crew. Just because," he pauses, "they need it."

Vakulskas has a more conventional parish as well. Sacred Heart in Early, Iowa. His traveling ministry began in 1969, when an Iowa carnival owner became seriously ill. His wife called the priest, frantic for her sick husband. It was that couple who persuaded him to consider addressing the spiritual needs of carnival workers. He is on the road several weeks a year.

His parishioners back home have made his carnival ministry possible. "They are very very supportive," says Vakulskas, "as is my bishop." Other priests fill in for him when he's on the road.

Although born in Portsmouth, Va, he's spent most of his professional life in the Midwest. This

is his first carnival in Maryland-he arrived at Montgomery Country Fair Thursday and will stay through today. In his sermon, before passing the hat, Vakulskas makes a plea for the plight of the Haitian people. He wants to make sure it is understood that "I don't do this to stuff my pocket...It's not that I'm defensive but I want to quell any questions about where the money goes. Half of the proceeds go to Mother Teresa's home for abandoned children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Half goes for the literature and spiritual material I pass out to the carnival workers.

Vakulskas believes that carnival workers-he never calls them carnies-have a peculiar set of concerns. Families are often separated if a large show breaks up into smaller units to hit more towns. Or if children have to go off to school.

He likes seeing his inspirational stickers stuck all over the midway. "I'm just a common priest," he says. "It might sound schmaltzy, but I love families and the good times. But I'm there for the sorrows too. To be accepted on the carnival fairgrounds is a good indication that God is representative."

It's 1 p.m. now and the midway is getting crowded. The carnival workers are suddenly more animated. There are smiles. Some laughter, and in the spirit of Buffalo Bill Cody, the original carnival showman, there's a faint "Step right up."

And off in the distance Father John can be seen leaning on the counter of a booth, listening.

THE WORD GOES FORTH

*By Sister Christine Beckett, KJNSHIP, Glenmary Sisters
Summer 1992*

A PASTOR WITH A MISSIONARY HEART AND A LOVE FOR THE POOR

It started in 1979 when Father Bill Travers, a Carmelite priest and retired Air Force chaplain wrote to the Glenmary Sisters. He was requesting that his newly formed United States Embassy parish, St. Thomas More, in Bonn, Germany, adopt a Glenmary Sister in one of the missions. Sister Teresa Marie Tretter, now deceased, became their adopted Sister. In Fr. Bill's initial letter to Sister Teresa Marie, he writes the reason for their desire to adopt a Glenmary Sister and mission: "We are doing this as a means of getting our people to reach out beyond the boundaries of our parish here in Bonn and help them realize the needs of the mission Church. I had many a pleasant dealing with Glenmary over the years and when we brought this idea up in the parish council, Glenmary immediately came to mind."

Part of the agreement with Fr. Bill and the parish was that he would arrange opportunities for the adopted missionary and/or the president of Glenmary to travel to Germany to give "live updates" on the activities in their mission. In 1980 Sister Teresa Marie made the trip and was thrilled with meeting Fr. Bill and the generous people of the parish. Not only did she speak at St. Thomas More, but also at Norvenich, a German air base on which American fliers are based. Sister Teresa Marie couldn't get over the numbers of people she met people from all over the world all of whom knew about and supported the Glenmary Sisters! Fr. Bill explains in a recent letter:

"So who are we? Our parish is attached to the American Embassy we have about 60% Americans and the other 40% come from other English speaking Embassies, e.g., Great

Britain, Ireland, Australia, Canada and many nations from Africa like Uganda, Kenya and Ghana. We also have people from Sri Lanka, Japan and India as well as both Americas."

Sister Teresa Marie was also amazed that even after people served their government on military tours, they continue to write

and support the adopted mission with their prayers and gifts. Some would even visit the mission upon their return to the United States.

Soon after Sister Teresa Marie's untimely death in 1986, Fr. Bill and St. Thomas More parish asked to adopt Sister Kathleen Mulchrone. Fr. Bill informed us that the small Catholic congregation at Norvenich named their new parish St. Teresa in honor of the great Carmelite saint, Teresa of Avila, and our own Sister Teresa Marie. This new parish also wanted to continue their support of Glenmary by adopting Sister Kathleen. In 1987, Sister Kathleen was invited by Fr. Bill to visit and speak at both parishes. She, too, found the experience exciting. Fr. Bill had arranged, as he did for Sister Teresa Marie, a trip to Rome for Sister Kathleen.

In 1989, Fr. Bill visited our headquarters then went to our mission in Owingsville, Kentucky, to experience first hand Sister Kathleen's work. He was very moved as Sister Kathleen showed him

around the back roads and hollers of the mission. He was especially touched after meeting the mountain people. When he returned to Bonn, he had much to share with his congregation.

Dear Mel,

The fact that I am still on the mailing list, and the prompt arrival of the newsletter covering the last Convention (et al), at last moved me to some action. I am enclosing a check for this year's and next year's dues.

The last Convention I attended was Las Cruces, NM. That was actually the last time I have flown. By the way, Joe Erny who came with me has since died of cancer. You might remember him as a delightful guy. Remember him now before the Lord.

3636K was in need of paint. Other things also added up to real money. The cost of flying came to a lot more than I was getting out of it. But during this time, Tony Haycock, a priest of the Archdiocese, was caught with the "bug", and began using it. We have it slicked up quite a bit, with drooped wing tips, extra radio, etc.

This year, to take advantage of a good "deal" towards retirement, I sold 3636K to Tony and bought a "condo." (I didn't charge him that much!) I really couldn't afford both things.

I keep working toward expanding Tony's horizons. So far, the farthest away he has gotten is central Idaho. He loves to fly in the San Juan Islands where we had an event in our 1979 Convention. Tony has all sorts of other interests, but I hope to get him interested in NAPP. (Agreeing to take a trip to a Convention, at least).

Meanwhile I plan to keep in contact, continue to belong. Up till moving here four years ago, there was always an associate around to help with the parish responsibilities. Getting replaced is a real inhibitor. It may be a matter of the will to provide the way. Retirement will help with that.

God bless John Bellon, who keeps going, & going.....

Dave White

Dave White

And speaking of John, he writes on 11 September, 1992.

Dear Mel,

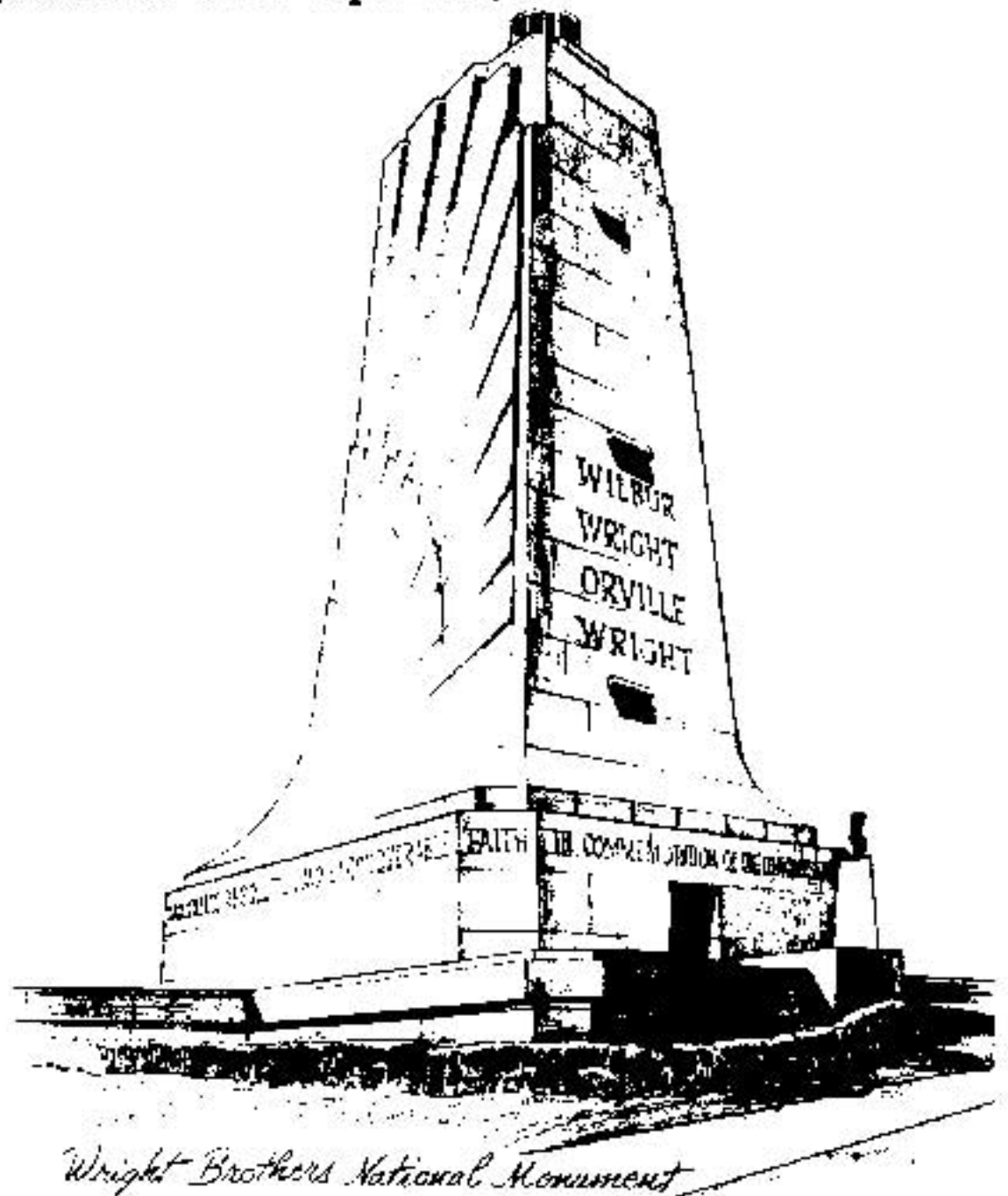
Was at Kitty Hawk a couple of weeks ago and took pictures with some one else's camera - not quite as good a camera as mine, but will send some pictures.

It would be a good area for a National Convention some time.

Regards to all,

John B

John Bellon



Wright Brothers National Monument

The Wright Brothers National Monument, built in 1932, commemorates the successful flights of the Wright Brothers on December 17, 1903.

MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

LARCHWOOD, IOWA

OCTOBER 12, 1992



F16s ON THE FLIGHT LINE



CONVERSATION, FELLOWSHIP and FOOD

