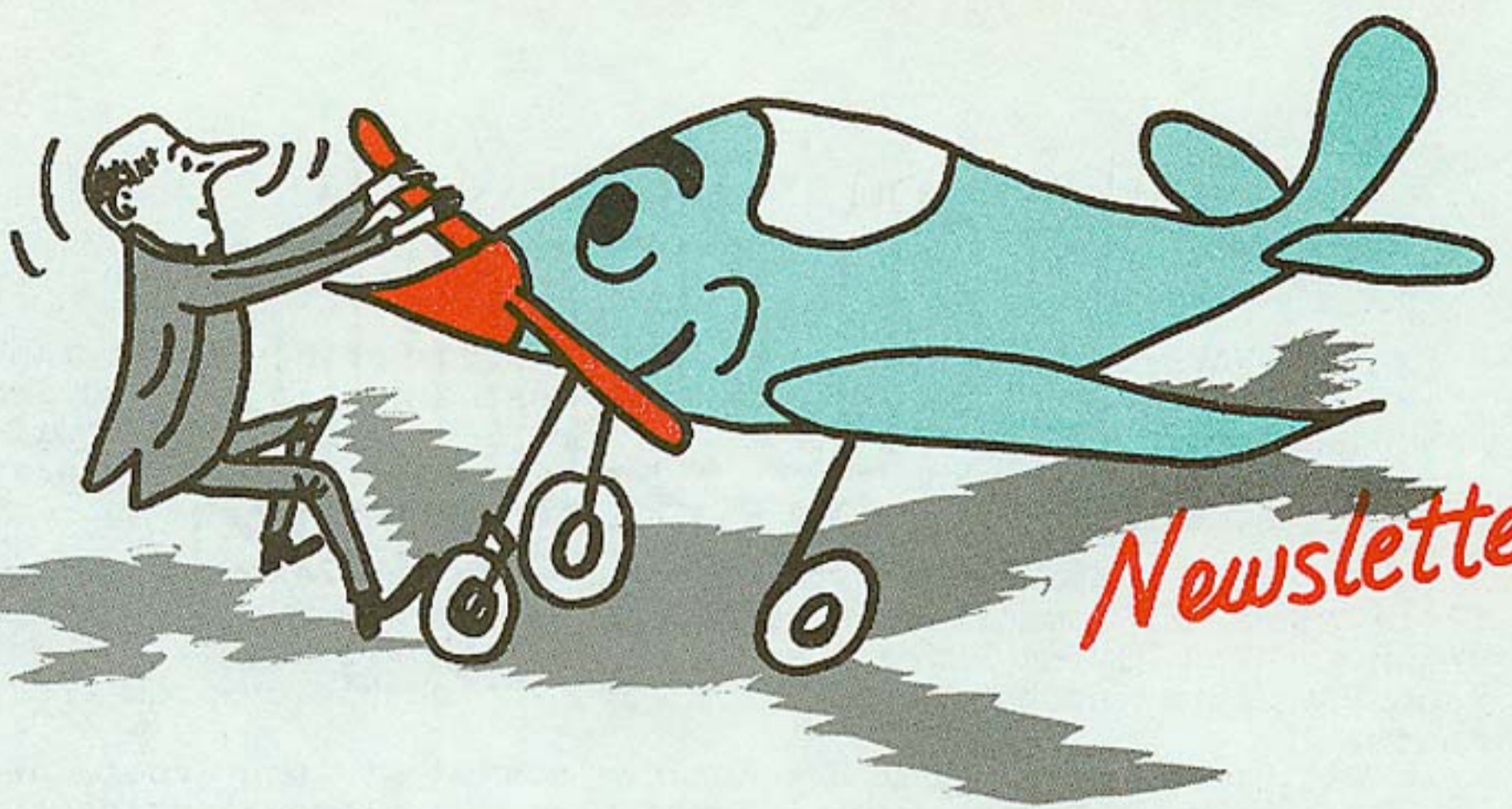


N.A.P.P.



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NO. 3

IN THE NAME OF THE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF N.A.P.P. I EXTEND A MOST WARM AND BROTHERLY CHRISTMAS GREETING. MAY THE INFANT CHRIST KEEP ALL THE FLYING PADRES, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN THE BEST OF HEALTH AND GIVE US ALL, WHETHER WE FLY OR NOT, SAFE PASSAGE AND LANDING FOR THIS LIFE'S WHOLE FLIGHT.

Rick

Father Don Murray Killed

Many NAPP members remember Fr. Don Murray of Sky Ranch fame. The following account of his death two months ago is gleaned from 3 newspaper articles sent by his co-worker, Sister Liz Lynch. If anyone is interested, or knows of a priest interested in this particular apostolate, contact her at Sky Ranch or drop me a line.

An unexplained early evening crash near the Baker, Mont., airfield ended the humanitarian career of Father Don Murray, nationally known as "The Flying Padre," and a 16 year-old resident of the "Sky Ranch for Boys" he had founded for boys in trouble or from broken homes.

Two other youths from Sky Ranch, located at Camp Crook, about 60 miles east of Baker, were injured when the plane carrying the foursome back to South Dakota crashed and exploded shortly after take-off from the Baker airfield at about 7:20 p.m. One of them was treated for multiple cuts and bruises at the Baker Hospital and released and the other was reported to be in serious, but stabilized condition, in the same hospital.

The plane reportedly circled back over the airport shortly after take-off and crashed in a hilly field less than a half mile from the airport. The aircraft crashed and disintegrated in the field, tossing the engine nearly 600 feet.

"Last Saturday may have been one of the happiest days of Father Murray's life," Bishop Harold J. Dimmerling said in his sermon on the text. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

Dimmerling told how Murray last Saturday baptized two boys, Kevin Blakey and Martin Pierce, and was "extremely happy" on the occasion. He promised to fly them to Baker, Mont., for dinner, which he did.

"We know that on the way back he met his untimely death with Kevin Blakey, but we know that on the day of our death we are born into everlasting life." Dimmerling said.

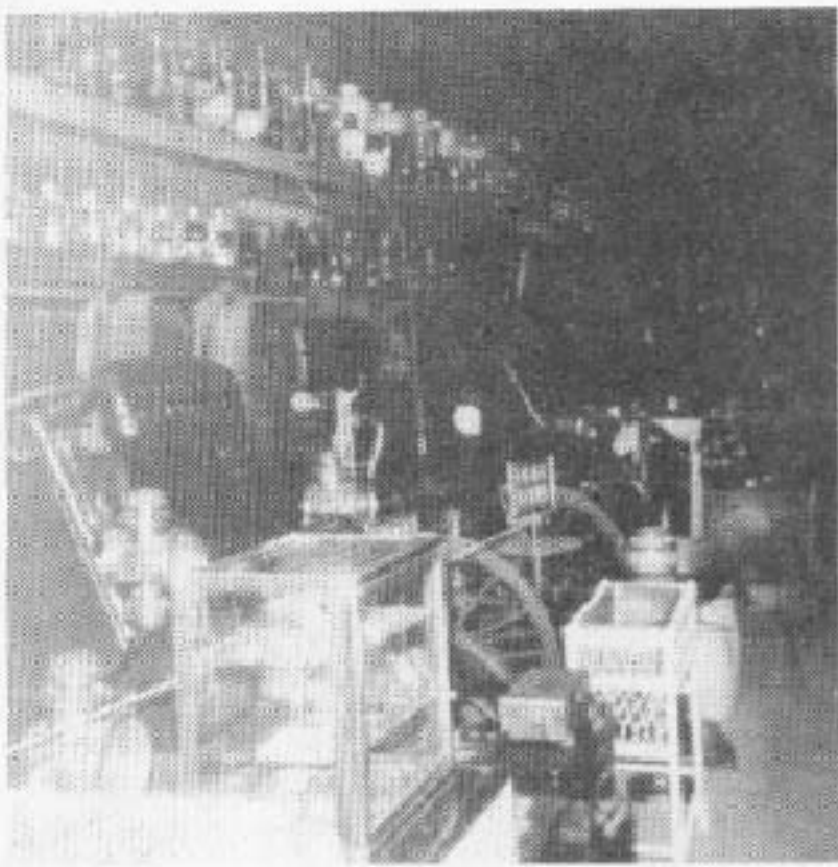
Calling Murray a man of compassion, who shared the sufferings of his fellow men and whose heart went out to those who needed help, he said Sky Ranch was a version of God's work for him, which he gladly accepted.

"We are human, we are sorrowing that God has taken a great man and a priest to himself but we are also celebrating that Father Murray and Kevin have entered portals of eternal glory." Dimmerling said.

"Father Murray was a product of the Rapid City Diocese, he spent his life here working for others...Many are concerned about the future of Sky Ranch. I can assure you it will continue, the Bishop said.

He said that very generous men who had contributed financially and other ways have pledged continued support to Sky Ranch.

"I can assure you that the work Father Murray began will not be discontinued," he said. "Father Murray had the foresight to plan for the future and he had schooled Father Dale Kutil in his work." Father Kutil and others will continue his work."



Bonger Museum
David City, Nebraska

Tuesday afternoon, September 30, nine Central region NAPP members met in David City, Nebraska for the Fall Regional Meeting hosted by Irvin Weber. Highlight of the get-together was a tour of the Bonger museum. For over 25 years Mr. Bonger has been buying and rebuilding old cars, trucks and steam engines. His single-handed accomplishments are almost unbelievable. If you're near the Lincoln, Nebraska area his place is about 30 miles N. W. He has a landing strip on his farm and the museum is worth seeing.

The evening concluded with dinner and the business meeting at a fly-in restaurant in Utica, Nebraska.

WANTED

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PRIEST PILOT? HE DID NOT ATTEND THE 1975 CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE. (NOTE THE FROWN AND THE GRUMPY DISPOSITION.) DO HIM A FAVOR... BRING HIM ALONG TO DUBUQUE IN 1976!



[1976 CONVENTION
DUBUQUE, IOWA
JULY 13-14]



This letter is from John MacGillivray who I missed by 15 minutes in Oshkosh:

"When I arrived back in Ottawa after the Oshkosh Fly-in Aug. 6, your letter had been forwarded there from Petawawa. Sorry I missed seeing you at the fly-in but I did not get your letter till I got back home."

"I was shifted to CFB Ottawa (South) Ontario, KIA OK5 Easter week and probably will be there till I retire from the service in '77 or '78. You might note the change of address. I am writing this note from my parents' home at Antigonish, Nova Scotia. After returning from Oshkosh to Ottawa I came down here air line to spend the rest of my leave with my folks. I have to be back in Ottawa on Aug. 25th."

"Your suggestion about having a NAPP convention in Ottawa or somewhere in Canada is interesting. There is an excellent aviation museum there and the war museum has many aviation exhibits and other interesting things to see. There are a few other priests in Ottawa who flew in the past but can make some inquiries when I get back and see if there is a chance of getting something organized. Two classmates of mine, Fr. John Mooney and Fr. Bernie Stack, were at Oshkosh this year. They are building a "Coct" and hope to have it going next year. They are both from St. John, New Brunswick and might be the nucleus of a committee to sponsor a convention in that area. There is a retreat house at Tarryburn near St. John that could accommodate a large group and the airport at St. John is served by Air Canada. When I get back I'll drop John a line and see what he says."

"At Oshkosh I met a Fr. Tom Rowland from El Paso who is working on a Dr.'s degree in liturgy at Notre Dame. He has a J.3 and assisted at our Mass for campers on Sunday morning. I also said Mass on Saturday evening and at both we distributed almost 500 communions. John Sutor, a lay deacon from St. Gregory's, Chicago, helped out on Saturday evening. Fortunately there were no fatal accidents this year but several minor mishaps."

"The past few years I've been staying at Oshkosh with Fr. John Dewane at Lourdes High School. He usually has spare rooms there if you're stuck. He flies and has the kids building a "Sonexai One" and it should be flying next spring."

"Many aviation organizations have publicity booths at Oshkosh and it might be one idea if NAPP had a display and some info available. I met a number of priests there, one from Windsor, Ont. whose name escapes me. I would like to get a trailer next year where priests camping there could get together for Mass. I said Mass at the convent with Fr. Dewane each morning before going out to the field but those camping were unable to say Mass each day. I mentioned this to Ray Schaller and we may be able to arrange something for next year."

"Since I am on my last posting before retiring, the old Miles Hawk and the Puss Moth will have to find new owners. If you have any rich friends interested in antiques you can pass the word along. Some friends in Flint, Mich. are rebuilding a 1941 T Craft for me so that should take care of my flying for as long as I can pass the medical. The T Craft should be finished by next spring. They are covering it with Razerback. The fuselage is done with a couple of coats of dope on it and the wings are next. It has a continental

Letter from John MacGillivray (continued)

C65 and we plan to install a kit to make it 75HP with the special valves that can take 100 low lead fuel, 80/87 is fast disappearing."

"I came 8th in the AC Rally this year out of about 35 entries in the antique section. The weather for the Rally this year was excellent. There were eight Canadian aircraft participating this year and they did well in the homebuilt section taking 1st & 3rd."

"This note is already too long so will sign off for now. Will drop you a note when I get back to Ottawa after my leave."

"Best regards to all the flying brethren."

John Walsh writes from Waterloo, Illinois:

"Just a few lines to let you know I have retired last June '74 from St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Cahokia, Illinois."

"Am now living on a little farm 6 miles west of Red Bud, Illinois and about 10 miles southwest of Waterloo, Illinois."

"It is on this farm that I have my little private air strip entitled "Our Lady Immaculata." This R.L.A. is listed on the St. Louis sectional chart - the run-way is grass, is 1300 feet lying 340 - 140 - also have a wind sock."

"Should any of the priests be flying this way I shall be pleased to see them."

Larry Mullin, C.P., writes from Quezon City, Philippines:

"Just came in - in pouring rain and found your letter of July 30th brought up from South Cotabato. I've moved from the parish in Tupi (a Filipino secular now has it - that's our goal) and I'm on the retreat band based here in Quezon City."

"I guess things are hard all over but we feel it more here in a 3rd World economy. I enjoyed meeting the guys in 1972 when I was home and met them at the convention in Kansas."

"We're under martial law here so the only flying we do is on the one public airlines in the country (reduced from 3!). I did a little flying out of Teterboro last summer when I was home but just enough to pass my biennial FAA exam."

"My best to yourself and all the Padres in the Association."

"P.S. We're just drying out the house here after a chest high flood in all our rooms! And the rainy season not over yet!"

Remi Payant writes from Delano, Minnesota:

"I hope you will get in touch with MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Assoc. Inc.), South Road, P. O. Box 217, Wurstboro, N. Y. 12790 and lend them a hand as part of NAPP's good works."

"In each new country parish I go to I photograph each parishioner's and non-Catholic home from the air and give them a free color print and use of the negative. (I say use of the negative because outright donation hurts when an owner moves and the successor wants a photo, or someone is new and the previous owner longs for a photo of the old homestead.)"

"The last two parishes I left gave me beautiful station wagons in appreciation for this and other courtesies, such as taking farmers' kids for rare all-day picnics, night outings, etc. Hopped 34 parishioners in one day."



Bishop Arkfeld of New Guinea sends the picture on the left of the first native priest in his diocese.

Father Cherubim

Chosen from among men,
for the things pertaining to
God. May we ask that you
continue your prayers for more
vocations. Yours in Christ.
+ Les Arkfeld, S.V.D.

WAPP SWINGS

JOIN UP FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

This issue contains the annual renewal envelope. Please return to Charlie Teufel immediately (if not sooner). Send any news items and pictures you may have for the newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
DICK FUNKE
(INSTRUMENT RATING)
AND
MARTY PFAB
(PRIVATE LICENSE)

