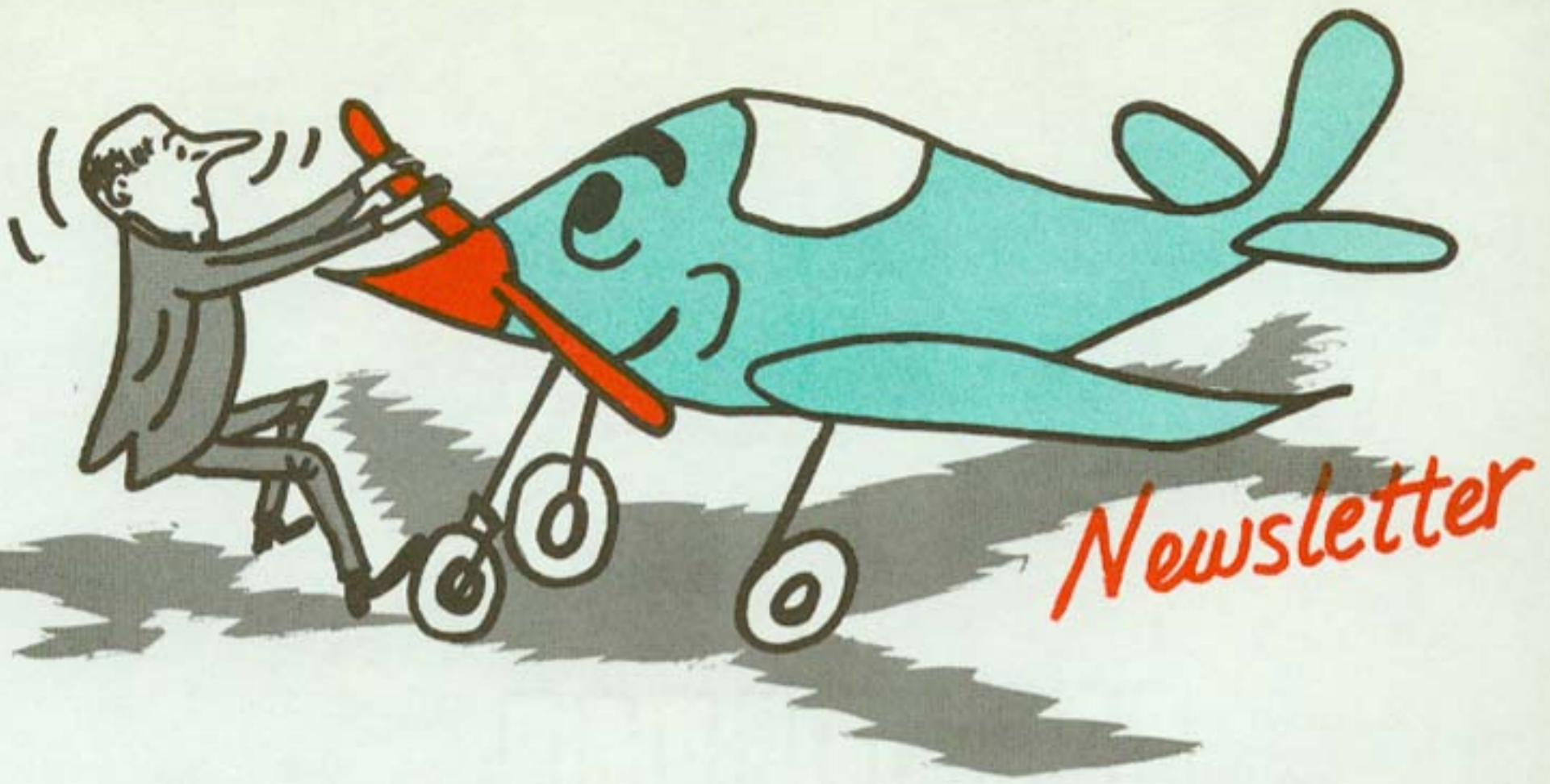


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XI

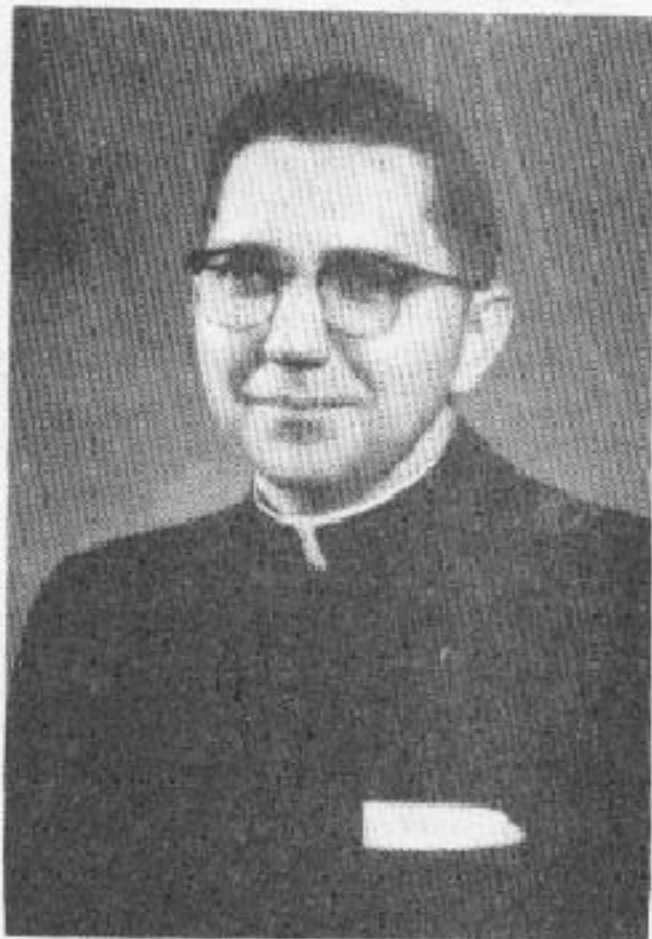
OCTOBER 1973

NO. 2

ONE HAPPY REACTION THAT I HAVE FROM EACH CONVENTION AND ESPECIALLY THE LAST ONE IN JUNEAU IS A REAL SPIRITUAL "UPDRAFT". BEING WITH FELLOW PRIESTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS, ALL OF WHOM ARE SOLID CITIZENS AND ENERGETIC, ZEALOUS MEN IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES CAN BE NOTHING SHORT OF INSPIRING, MORE THAN THAT THO, OUR CONCELEBRATED LITURGIES WITH THEIR BEDROCK SINCERITY AND SIMPLICITY ARE THE GREATEST I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED. THE MASS IN JUNEAU WITH BP. HURLEY COUPLED TO THE AUTOMATIC AND UNREHEARSED HARMONIZED HYMNS HELPED ME REALIZE THAT I MIGHT EASILY HAVE BEEN ON RETREAT. I NEVER GAVE IT MUCH THOUGHT BEFORE, BUT KEEPING UP THERE AERONAUTICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY JUST HAS TO BE ONE OF THE REASONS ANY FLYING PADRE SHOULD BE A NAPPER.

In Xto,

DICK SCRIBA



CHICAGO PRIEST HEADS 150 FLYING PADRES

AUGUST 31, 1973

THE NEW WORLD

by MARY CLAIRE GART

When Father Richard L. Skriba was a youngster, he liked to build model airplanes and learn what made them fly. Like lots of other little boys, he had a yen for flying and looked with admiration at his older cousins in the Air Force. He even took a couple of lessons from a friend while he was in high school.

But he also had another dream -- the priesthood. Eventually, he realized both ambitions: ordination and a pilot's license. In fact, he was recently elected to a two-year term as president of the National Association of Priest Pilots at its annual convention in Juneau, Alaska.

The organization of "Flying Padres," which now numbers 150 priest members, was founded 10 years ago by two priest pilots who learned there were many other like themselves.

"Originally, they just wanted to get together to share their mutual interests," said Father Skriba. "There was no specific aim, at first.

"But then the association became involved in mission work. For instance, members of the association often give flying lessons to missionaries, or transport supplies--even planes--to mission territories."

Father Skriba and another member, Father Paul O'Connor, W.F., recently delivered a plane to a missionary in Zambia, Africa--a 7,500-mile trip.

Even stateside, the members find uses for their aviation knowledge. Father Dick Smith, O.S.A., of San Diego, runs his own "charter flight service" for priests who must commute to mission stations for Sunday Masses. Father Donald Murray combines his love of aeronautics with his concern for orphans at the Sky Ranch for Boys in South Dakota.

The priest pilots association is comprised of clergy from all dioceses and backgrounds. Among the members are two bishops (Bishop Leo Arkfeld, S.V.D., of Wewak, New Guinea, and Bishop Francis T. Hurley of Juneau), many pastors and associates, military chaplains and missionaries.

In addition to Father Skriba, other local members are Father James J. Close, superintendent of the Mission of Our Lady of Mercy, and Father Tony Gendasa, M.S.G., who now is serving in Rabaul, New Guinea.

About half the members fly regularly as part of their ministry, Father Skriba estimated. Others fly merely for recreation or when they have the opportunity to perform some service for the missions.

As for himself, Father Skriba doesn't own his own plane but flies a friend's plane out of Midway Airport. His most recent trip was to the priest pilots' convention in Juneau in July. He and three other priests logged 30 hours traveling there in a twin-engine plane.

During the convention, the priests' concern for the missions was demonstrated when the delegates voted to present a \$1,000 gift to the Juneau Diocese. Also, three conventioners volunteered to work in the Alaskan diocese for two years if they can get their own bishops' permission. (Only 12 priests now serve in the diocese which has a Catholic population of 4,022.)

In addition to the annual convention, various regions of the association hold their own meetings. The Midwest priest pilots will gather Oct. 1 at Offut Air Force Base in Omaha, where the chaplain is an association member.

Although he now heads the priest pilot association, Father Skriba's principal duties still are at St. Simon the Apostle Church, where he has been an assistant since 1964.

He hopes to find time, however, to obtain an "instrument rating" from the Federal Aeronautics Administration. He wants to earn the rating to increase his proficiency.

"If flying is useful to the missions," he said, "then it's well worth it. This is just another instance of using modern equipment to spread the Gospel."

ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS ON THE NEW PRESIDENT:

Dick was ordained for the Chicago Archdiocese in May 1949 with an MA in Theology. Since that time he has served in 3 parishes in Chicago.

Dick began flying in 1943 but there was a long hiatus during the seminary days. Presently he has about 500 hours in singles and CLT twin and hopefully will have an IFR ticket in the not too distant future. He is a charter member of NAPP and a past secretary.

Dick's mother is still living. One brother is a priest of the Archdiocese and another has an MBA and works for 3M Corporation in St. Paul, Minnesota. A sister is married and her two sons are seminarians.

The Slovak Catholic Charities has Dick as its president and he is also a certified graphoanalyst.

NAPP needs YOUR news!



Send it all to Mel Hemann
10 River Heights
Mason City, Iowa
50401

News From the World of NAPP



NAPP had two inquiries seeking information within the past two months. One came from a Cadette Girl Scout in Tucson, Arizona. She wanted to know about NAPP and its purposes as part of her project in earning her Aviation badge.

The other came from Rev. Randall Sawyer, Pastor of the First Christian Church in Rogers, Arkansas. He flies and was wondering about NAPP. I sent one of our brochures and other information.

George Seufferling writes from Emporia, Kansas, "I flew out to Denver for the Ecumenical Campus Ministers annual national meeting August 5 to 9, and took with me a married couple from Washburn, Topeka, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Marchand who will be full time campus ministers there with the Catholic Center, and Karen Smith who is full time with me here in Emporia. There were 400 there and a part of the meeting involved the annual meeting of the CCMA. I flew Pool's Cessna 172 out, ran into some minor storms on the way out and back—and my first experience at high altitude landing and take off—and it was interesting as we were close to being overloaded."

Dick Skriba passes on the following information from Chicago.

Jim Kelley is in Asmara, Ethiopia. He's the only Chaplain on the base and is already lining himself up to fly singles and multi and do some instructing. Seems as though the Ethiopians will accept all his certificates and ratings. We tape-pond so I should have some more next time.

Also — Paul O'Connor is back in merrie ol' England for a few months visiting his mother and attending his nephew's wedding.

Jim Harney of Louisville, Kentucky is now working on his IFR ticket and also his helicopter voting.

Welcome to Joseph Dooley of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. Joe is a classmate of NAPP'er Fred Loeper of Reading Pennsylvania and is scheduled for his private check ride the end of October.

Treasurer Charlie Teupel has also been busy and signed up Francis Kane, S.M. of Wheeling, West Virginia.

President Dick Skriba flew a Skymaster to Jefferson, Iowa October 8 to show it to a John Deere salesman who wants to buy it. He bought them lunch and then Dick was going to check up on some of the Iowa NAPP'ers in the area but had forgotten his directory.

Dick informs us also that the article in the paper has resulted in a \$1,000 bequest to Bishop Hurley and another \$1000 to Tony Gendusa.

Another reason why we should support NAPP!



Congratulations to Ev Hemann of Cedar Falls, Iowa on receiving his IFR ticket on September 27 in the Bonanza pictured. He and brother John, along with Dan Knipper of Gilbertville, Iowa, recently purchased the Bonanza from a cousin who discovered his job for Beech in Wichita as check out pilot for new Queen Air owners and pilots left little time to fly his own plane.

John Birk writes from Dayton, Washington.

"It was so good to get such a newsy NAPP newsletter. I will be coming through Mason City about the middle of August and will stop to see you if you are around at that time.

News from this part is very interesting in that we had a 30 day Retreat in which on one side of the Retreat House sisters from throughout the USA and Canada (there were 29) and on my side 10 priests, 7 bishops and one brother made this personally directed (Holy Spirit) Retreat. It was really great. At first I wondered how I could make it, but praise the Lord, it really enriches one's prayer life and leads to deeper contemplation in the Lord. The day consisted of 3 periods of contemplation (one hour each), optional shared prayer period (45 minutes), concelebrated Mass (which was also optional) and points at 7 pm in the evening and time with your director. There were 3 days of repose in which we got together at a lake. The community that formed was mystical, truly the working of the Holy Spirit. Bishops and priests alike were really brothers in Christ after that experience. I would like to get a plug in for next year in your newsletter for the next one in Spokane: June 10 to July 10 at the Immaculate Heart Retreat House in Spokane. It will be open to about 47 this time because they feel the response will be better yet. 150 bishops answered by letter to the 30 day Retreat but many had commitments made for this year. Cost: \$350.00

Next year I will be spending my vacation in our mission in Guatemala. It looks like I am going to be the director of the Propagation of the Faith so it will have real meaning. Since I am promoting the Mission, I want to get better pictures. I am checking Father Young out on his offer in going to Central America to see if we can hook up on his winter trip there as mentioned in the newsletter.

God bless. Hope all goes well your way."

Gordon Hilsman of Mason City, Iowa sent in his order for a BD-5D, the production model, and already has his serial number. Gordy is just finishing up on his private ticket and by the time this reaches you he should have the check ride behind him.

August 14, 1973

Reverend Charles B. Teufel
Treasurer, N.A.P.P. Inc.
P. O. Box 266
Thomas, West Virginia 26292

Dear Father Teufel,

Bishop Hurley is away from the office until next week. In his absence may I acknowledge your letter and the generous gift from the N.A.P.P.

It was our pleasure to have the group meet here in Juneau. Sorry our weather was so miserable. You missed seeing how beautiful the area really is.

Hope you got to say hello to Father Luke, OFM Cap. for me.

Sincerely,



Joann White
Secretary to the Bishop

ADDRESSES

NEW—

CHANGES—

Rev. Joseph P. Dooley
Immaculate Conception
178 West Broadway
Jim Thorpe, Pa. 18229

Rev. Francis Kane, S.M.
St. Michael's Church
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Wheeling, W.Va. 26003

Phone: 304-242-1560

Rev. Robert Pool
St. John's Church
Greeley, Kans 66033

Rev. Eugene F. McCahey
Briargate - Apt. #5
10500 So. Ridgeland
Chicago Ridge, Il 60415

Rev. James Close
Mission of Our Lady of Mercy
1140 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Il. 60607
Phone: 312-421-6600

Rev. Louis A. Foley, O.F.M.
St. Joseph's Monastery
Winsted, Conn. 06098

Msgr. Cornelius B. Sweeney
1347 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, Ind. 46202

CENTRAL MEETING

The Central Region was hosted on October 1 at Offut Air Force Base by Col. Vince Merfeld, Chaplain and Priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Sixteen members were present from four states. IFR conditions meant arrivals by commercial flights, cars, and two planes.

The activities of the day consisted of a tour of SAC underground headquarters, a libation in the Officers' Club followed by a delicious dinner together.

Plans were made for the Spring meeting and it is being planned for early May at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. On the agenda is a tour of the Air Force museum located there. More details will follow. Plan now to attend!

NATIONAL

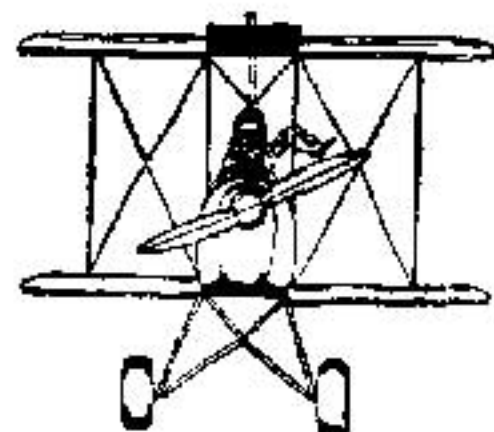


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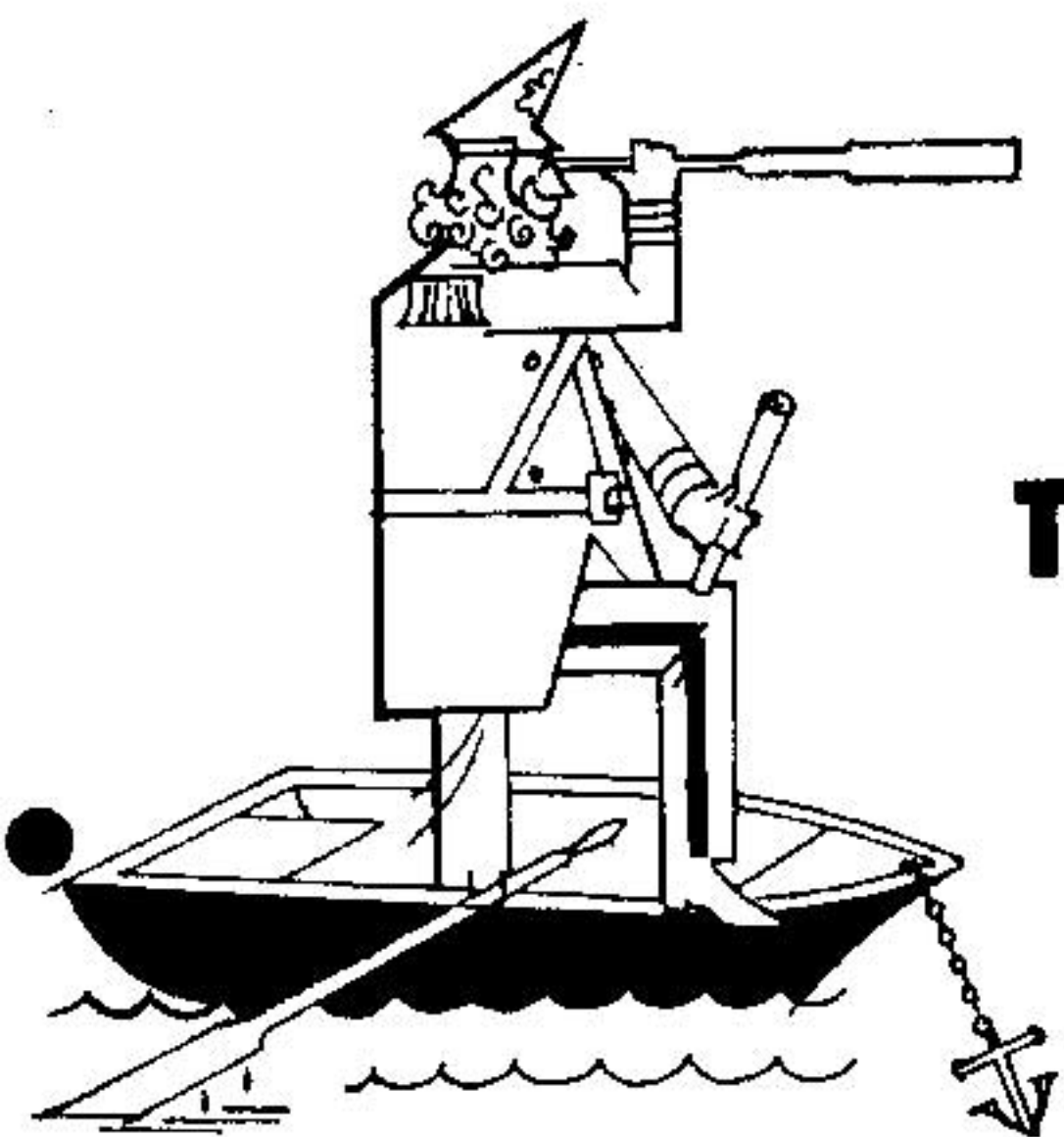
NAPP National Headquarters moved with the election of Dick Skriba as President. Accordingly, headquarters address is now:

5157 S. California Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60632
Phone: 312-434-3613

Items for the newsletter can be sent to National Headquarters or to the newsletter address: 10 River Heights, Mason City, Iowa 50401.



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