

N.A.P.P.



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DECEMBER 1985

NO. 3

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We must begin this letter on a sad note. Father Irvin Weber of Minden, Nebraska died in Waterloo, Iowa on December 4, 1985. A member of the Priest Pilots for a number of years, he hosted the annual convention in Colorado Springs several years ago. Irv had been in the Service as a chaplain and knew his way around the Air Force Academy. A number of our priests attended the funeral. If you ever attended even one of our yearly conventions you will remember Irv. His trademark were his red coveralls. Sewed to the front of his coveralls were the names of the places where he had attended the conventions. We will miss Irv at next year's convention. One of the priests thinks those famous coveralls should be sent to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Something to think about. Our good friend, Bishop Jerome Hastrich of Gallup, New Mexico stops here occasionally when confirming in Pittsburg or when passing through the area. He mentioned several times that his priests find it difficult to get away on vacation because of the shortage of priests. In November we allowed my Assistant, Jim Dolan, to fill in for a priest in Lumberton, N.M. for two weeks. Our parish paid for the round trip and it will not count against Jim's vacation. It was a very interesting experience for Jim. And our parishioners were happy to hear how other people live. I mention this for a reason. If every priest with one Assistant or more would give up at least one week to help a priest in another diocese we would be helping our confreres. We have done this for a number of years and the priests have been most appreciative. Why not give it some thought?

Once we get into the new year our thoughts turn to vacations. Don't forget our dates - July 8 and 9 - for our annual convention. Bob Kirsch is making plans for another unforgettable meeting.

John A. Dompka

Our new VHS tapes for commercial-instrument are proving to be popular. I have been through them; so has Dick Funke. The list as of today goes like this:
1. Dick Skriba. 2. John Dompka. 3. Jim Quinn. 4. John T. Walsh.

Our past policy has been not keep our materials over 2 months. When your time is up, I will have the list up to date in the newsletter.



1. I decided to send out a Christmas letter to some of my friends. So I thought I'd stick one in here too.

2. The other gift enclosed is the annual dues envelope. It's a lot easier on Charlie's blood pressure if you use it immediately. That \$10 is still one of the better bargains in today's world.

3. A reminder of the Midwest Spring Regional meeting. Monday, May 5. See the host's letter in another section regarding details. Sounds like one of those offers you just can't refuse.

The Annual National Convention will be July 8 and 9 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Details will start appearing in the next issue. Mark your calendar now.

4. Five of us were present at Irv Weber's funeral on Saturday, Dec. 7, in St. Athanasius Church, Jesup, Iowa. This was Irv's home parish and it was great to see about a dozen other priests present who knew him. The NAPP members present were: Dick Funke, Gene Murray, Frank Nemmers,

John Friederick and myself.

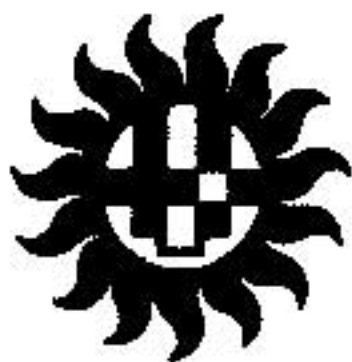
Apparently Irv developed a very fast form of cancer. We heard about mid-November that he was slipping fast. Within 3 weeks he was dead. He has left for us a good topic of conversation, as John pointed out in his article, his red coveralls. Requiescat in pace!

5. Quite a number of you sent in pictures after reading about it in the last newsletter. We will use some of them in the new informational brochure that we'll try to get ready in the next few months. I'm using some of them with the letters you sent in this issue. Keep those cards, letters and pictures coming folks.

This reminds me that when we put out the last pictorial directory several years ago we misposed of all the pictures. A couple of them were new but most were pictures I'd been lugging around since we put out the first one. (How many years ago???) The printer said they'd had them. If you have, preferably a passport size photo, you can start sending them in any time as we'll put out the next pictorial directory in April.

6. We wish all of you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a great 1986. You may not have this before Christmas day but it will come within the 12 days.

- It's Las Cruces, N.M.



For Sun & Fun

Since 1535-



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

Dick Skriba writes from Chicago in October:

"Got the newsletter today - great job!"

"If you're starting a list of viewers for the Instrument-Commercial tapes, please put me on the list."

"I had a chance to go with a fellow who has a Semeca to the A.O.P.A. get together in D.C. We had a wild tail-wind outbound. The DME read-out was 212kts."

Gene Murray writes from Varina, Iowa:

"I came upon an article entitled, 'Christmas in the World's Largest Parish' in the December issue of the Extension magazine. It is about Preacher Smith's former parish at Dillingham, Alaska. Although he is no longer stationed there, his picture is in the article. I guess you might say that he has left his mark. Thought you might find the article interesting since you were among those who visited there during the '81 Convention."

"The Cub is flying well. We have 150 hours on it by now with only minor maintenance problems. We are looking for a set of skis for it to make winter flying a little more enjoyable."

P.S. "Saw Marc Tillia on one of the 'River Specials' on IPBN TV. He was flying the lady who was doing the Special in his 206. The program was about the Sao Francisco River in Brazil. Brother Joe (Murray) has the program on video tape if anyone is interested."

From Endwell, N.Y. Jim Quinn sends the following:

"Enclosed are a few pictures of me with my SONERAI II. Sorry there is nothing in black and white. The Sonerai is my second homebuilt and I am hopeful that in a few years I'll give you an up dated photo with my ACRO II, but that is in the future for sure."

"I would like to be put on the list for the new videos for the commercial-instrument prep."

"Thanks for all the great work you do for our association and have a most blessed Thanksgiving."



From Grand Island, Nebraska:

"Just a note from the new Chaplain at the Vet's Home in Grand Island! Merry, Happy and Joyful Christmas."

Jim Kremerier

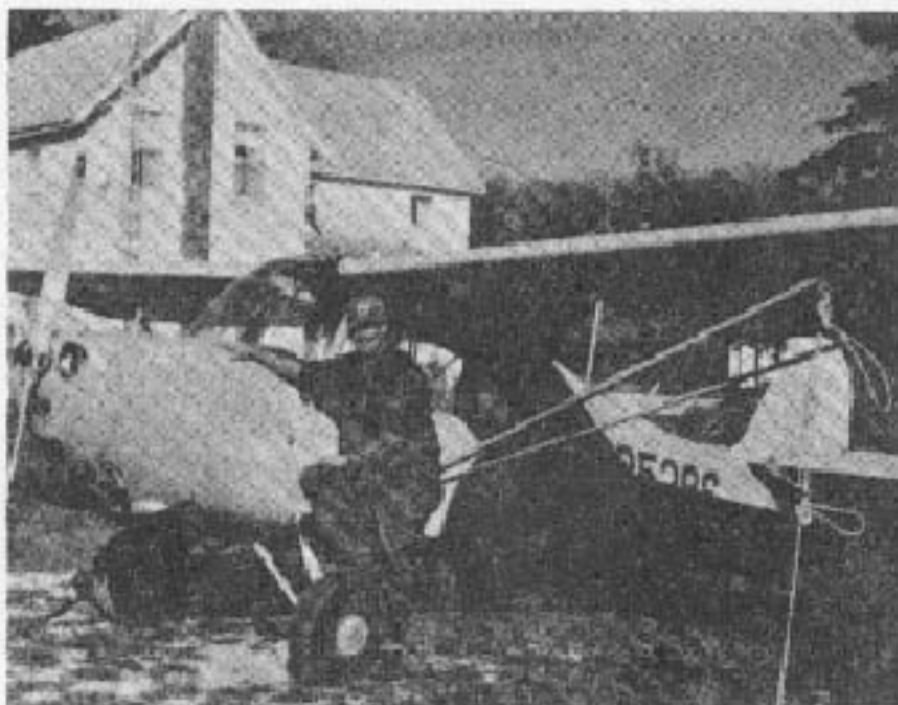
NAPP Secretary Jack Paisley sends the following from Decorah, Iowa:

"Here are some 'candid' photos for the new directory. I hope they are not too late. Ev was on the way to Festina and we took these at the Decorah airport."

"I learned by accident as I arrived at Mark Sutton's farm that he was a pilot. Then I found out that this is the 'CHAMP' you flew. He keeps it on the farm and promised me a ride."

"Also photos of John Friederick and myself. If you don't want them after use, could you return them?"

Editor's note: I was stationed for 5 years in Decorah in the early '60's. It was here that I learned to fly in the Champ pictured at right. Several years later a student pilot developed carb ice on a cross country and had a power failure. He totatted the plane when he tried to lift it over a fence while attempting to land. Mark later bought it and had it rebuilt. Jack, tell him I'll stop by again some time and take another spin in it myself.



From Webster, New York:

"Please put me on the list for the IFR video tapes -- if they are VHS."

John T. Walsh

Editor's note: The tapes are VHS.

Frank Nemmers writes from Granville, Iowa: (November 7, 1985)

"Question: Do you know why farmers can't be caught in a group picture?

"Answer: Because everytime you say 'cheeze' they line up single file!"

"Got a call from Kearney/Minden, Nebraska. Irv 'red suit' Weber is hospitalized with cancer. Non sui compos, part time, I'm told. Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney, Nebraska. The diagnosis and severity were related to me by a classmate (nun) stationed there. I had given Irv a ride in Mooney 21FN as far as Kansas City from Lafayette."

Editor's note: See account of Irv's death and funeral elsewhere in newsletter.

"There was some discussion about a bit more time and activity available at future mid-west regional NAPP meetings. Perhaps the expressed option of staying a day or two -- some fishing or golfing or camping??? for those interested. The Boone ride was fine, but a 'fur piece' to go for lunch and a short train ride."

"There might even be some interest - weather permitting - to stop in Paullina (10 miles east of Granville) for a swim & cookout (camping!) enroute to North Dakota. Our rectory has 2 extra apartments and one sister for a 12 room convent."



From Quesnel, British Columbia, Barry Desmond writes:

"It's still good to keep in touch, even if it is only by mail and not too often at that."

"I have been here in Quesnel for almost three years now. Unfortunately it has been marked by very little flying as Jerry (my brother and fellow priest) and I sold the Cessna 180 before that and the Zenith (all metal, low wing, 2 place tail dragger, O-320 engine) has been delayed in coming off the assembly line at a local High School

"At this point it is almost there and I am looking forward to the Spring with eager anticipation. The only major expense still outstanding is the paint."

"My ambition is to get to Oshkosh for the EAA Convention. Since I have been getting my holidays in winter recently, it becomes difficult to squeeze everything in."

"Do many of the NAPP members fly home-built amateur aircraft and belong to EAA? It might be an idea to bring the two together some time for the convention."

"I enclose two photos for the directory. You may use the one you think is most suitable and return the other."

Edwina, Msgr. Sigur's secretary (1985 host in Lafayette, LA) writes: We are very proud of our pastor and would like to share the enclosed with you and your priest pilots. Hope to see you again.



Msgr. Sigur Civic Cup winner

"Not only has Msgr. Alexander O. Sigur offered his time and energies to better the lives of many in Lafayette, he's done it with 'zeal.'"

"A long list of contributions to the community by the pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church will place him in the limelight on December 5, as he receives the 1985 Lafayette Civic Cup Award."

"The honor is bestowed annually on a generous Lafayette resident who has without compensation contributed greatly to the welfare of the community."

"'Indefatigable' and 'inexhaustible' is how one group of citizens described the monsignor in nominating him for the award."

"Sigur's concern for the less privileged in the community have been shown in his work to establish several charitable programs, including St. Joseph's Diner, Friends of the Poor, and Share the Light."

"In recognition of his work to make the Catholic Service Center a 'place where the poor could be served with dignity and respect,' the center was renamed the Msgr. Alexander O. Sigur Service Center on Dec. 8, 1984."

"He is on the advisory board of the Faith House and the Hospice Movement."

"He's offered his energies to promote organ donations and solicit support for the Advertiser Milk Fund."

"The United Christian Outreach benefits from his membership on its advisory board, as does the Lafayette Community Correctional Center, through which he works to prevent delinquency of youths and toward offenders' rehabilitation."

"Any spare time he has he spends visiting shut-ins, as a member of the Rotary Club Committee for the Aged."

"Other groups or boards through which he contributes to civic betterment include the Board of Southwest Louisiana Education and Referral Center; Lafayette Chamber of Commerce; Ecumenical Study Group; Ulster Movement; Boy Scouts of America; Breakfast Forum for Businessmen; and Lafayette Mental Health Association and Families and Friends of Mental Health."

"The Louisiana Council of Human Relations; the Louisiana Commission on the Aged; The U.S. Civil Rights Commission; the Louisiana Interchurch Conference; and the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities have also benefited

from his service on their boards or committees."

"The Monsignor also finds time to promote cultural activities, by supporting Community concerts, the Fine Arts Foundation, the Vermilion Chamber Orchestra, Chorale Acadienne and the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra."

"The Civic Cup Award is sponsored by the Past Recipients Club. For the past 52 years it was sponsored by the Young Mens Business Club. This year's ceremonies will be held at The Ballroom, downtown."

"The awards banquet during which Sigur will be honored will begin at 7 p.m. The public is invited."

(Reprinted from THE DAILY ADVERTISER --- November 24, 1985)



John Costello, S.J. writes from Chicago:

"It is always good to open the NAPP envelope and read about various activities, etc. of the different members."

"You asked for a picture for a new informational brochure. A quick search resulted in the enclosed. I am on the right and my friend, John Davis, is on the left. John Davis is currently chief pilot for Cintas Corp. and flies a Sabreliner based at Lunken Airport (LUK) in Cincinnati. John helped me prepare for my written as well as fly the right seat on numerous flights. The photo was taken by another flying buddy, Mr. Ed Christin, operations V.P. of Personal Flight Training, Inc. (at the time I flew out of there - 1979 -



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it was a Piper facility known as Key Aviation). "Sunken Lunken" has its own reputation but is has fond memories for me."

"When I lived in Cinti, I worked at our university, Xavier, mostly administration. Since January I have been assigned to our Province Development Office where my main duty is fund raising. I'll enclose some of our materials to give you an idea of who we are and what we do. I imagine you know of us through the Wisconsin Province whose territory extends to Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, among other states. Also, I put you on our list to receive the quarterly magazine, Company. It's gratis, and a way to inform and educate (sound familiar??) our families, friends, benefactors, on a national scale."

"Next time you're in Chicago, stop by and join us for dinner. Till then, thanks again for the good work you the others do for NAPP."

SACRED HEART CHURCH
ROLETTE, NORTH DAKOTA 58366

Midwest Regional Conference host for May writes on October 22, 1985:

Dear Mel,

"I see that, by the news letter I just received, that the brethren have honored me by accepting my invitation to come to Rolette for the Spring meeting. I am looking forward to hosting the event."

"We have been working on our airport here this past summer and it has been resealed and striped. The lights are working and should you come in after dark, hit the mike five times and the field will be lit."

"The first Sunday in May is our traditional annual supper. Come for the weekend. You will be treated to the usual turkey and ham with all the trimmings. Also you will have an opportunity to meet the Rev. brethren of these parts. They will tell you stories of horror about flying with me. As it happens, most of them are true."

"I am sorry I missed the Fall meeting. We have a new Bishop, Bishop James Sullivan, the former Auxiliary of Lansing. He had called a meeting on that day to review the Diocesan resources so I had to go to that. I intend to make it to Las Cruces next summer. That is if God is willing and the creek don't rise."

"Monday will be, of course, the big day. Bring your golf clubs. We have a tricky little course here. You can also have a tour of a farm to see how we do things here with the big machines."

"Now to the menu: Lunch on Monday will feature my famous lamb stew. For the more fastidious we will have the remains of the turkey from Sunday. The evening meal will of course be a beef roast from the North Dakota beef, grass fed and four years old."

"As you can see, or imagine, we shall have a regular frontier hoe down. The dog is tied and latch string is out. Come early and stay late. Bring a guest or guests."

"So until we meet again, keep your speed up and the nose down."

Fraternally,

Adam
Adam Engelhardt



It is with some guilt that I approach this letter this year. First of all, I usually do this once every three years. Looking back, I see I wrote my last letter in 1983. My little calculator says that is only two years. Secondly, Ann Landers recently said that to send out a form letter at Christmas time is REALLY BAD and that most people do not like to be bored with the operations of aunt Maude, the moving of uncle Joe, the latest escapades of the kids, etc. (These aren't her exact words, but it's close).

After considerable thought I decided to go ahead anyway. Although I am a fervent follower of Ann's advice I came to the conclusion I do not have an aunt Maude, no uncle Joe, no kids to report on. But I do have a few et ceteras. The positives in this case out-weighed the negatives.

In addition the requests have been pouring in to share the experiences of these past two years. I felt I just couldn't let this poor lady down and have her approach this Christmas without an up-date.

My 1983 letter spoke of the approaching silver jubilee celebrations of myself, Fr. John and Sr. Camilla in July of 1984. Many of you who receive this were present for that gala event but I find that going back through the album brings back many fond memories. I'd like to briefly relive them with you.



Over 40 priest pilots from 15 states, Canada and Brazil came to join us in the celebration. John and I hosted, along with our brother Matt and his wife Karmen the 21st annual convention of the National Association of Priest Pilots. They turned out in good numbers in 20 some planes.

The Franciscan Sisters from Camilla's community in Dubuque prepared the liturgy of Thanksgiving and provided a choir of some 40 Sisters and musicians to lead us and embellish that beautiful liturgy. Joining myself, John and our brother Ev (left to right seated behind Archbishop Frank Hurley of Anchorage at the pulpit) were over 70 other priests. Sr. Camilla is seated on the left side of the picture and the married half of the family and their children are seated with Mom and Dad in the front pews.

Friends and relatives came from far and near to join us and their presence added to our special day. I know the three of us were humbled by the fact that so many took the time and made the effort to be there.

Following the liturgy we gathered at the home farm with almost 3000 people who came to watch the air show. It began with parachutists dropping in from the skies. Following this long time veteran air show pilot, Duane Cole from Burleson, Texas and Joe Schumacher from Carroll, Iowa thrilled the crowd with their aerobatics. In between Ray Mead of Eagle Grove, Iowa awed the crowd with the radio controlled model planes he has built. The show concluded with hot air balloon ascents. (That's me below on the left).



Around 6:00 PM we served a pork & beef dinner to over 1500 people. We all agreed this was a "once in a life time experiences."

Confidentially, we are looking forward to the year 2009 when we can gather in our wheel chairs to really whoop it up for our 50th. Details on that will follow in a future letter.

One of the decisions I made earlier in 1984 was that I would treat myself by accepting an invitation from a missionary priest-pilot friend, Pat Patten, to come visit him in Tanzania, East Africa. I was enrolled at the North American College in Rome for the Fall three month sabbatical and decided to go to Rome by way of Africa.

I left Preston in early September and Pat was on hand to greet me when I arrived at Kilimanjaro International. Pat proved to be a great host during the couple of weeks I spent there. Having some one on the scene to watch over you and show you around certainly beats being just another one of the tourists.

It was an experience to spend time with missionaries from all over the U.S. and many of the European countries. Perhaps what stayed with me most of all was the dedication of these men and women. All the luxuries and conveniences that we take so for granted one soon learns are just that, luxuries and conveniences. Yet they are nice to have.

The diocese of Arusha has a volunteer program that attracts young people who offer to teach in the minor seminary.





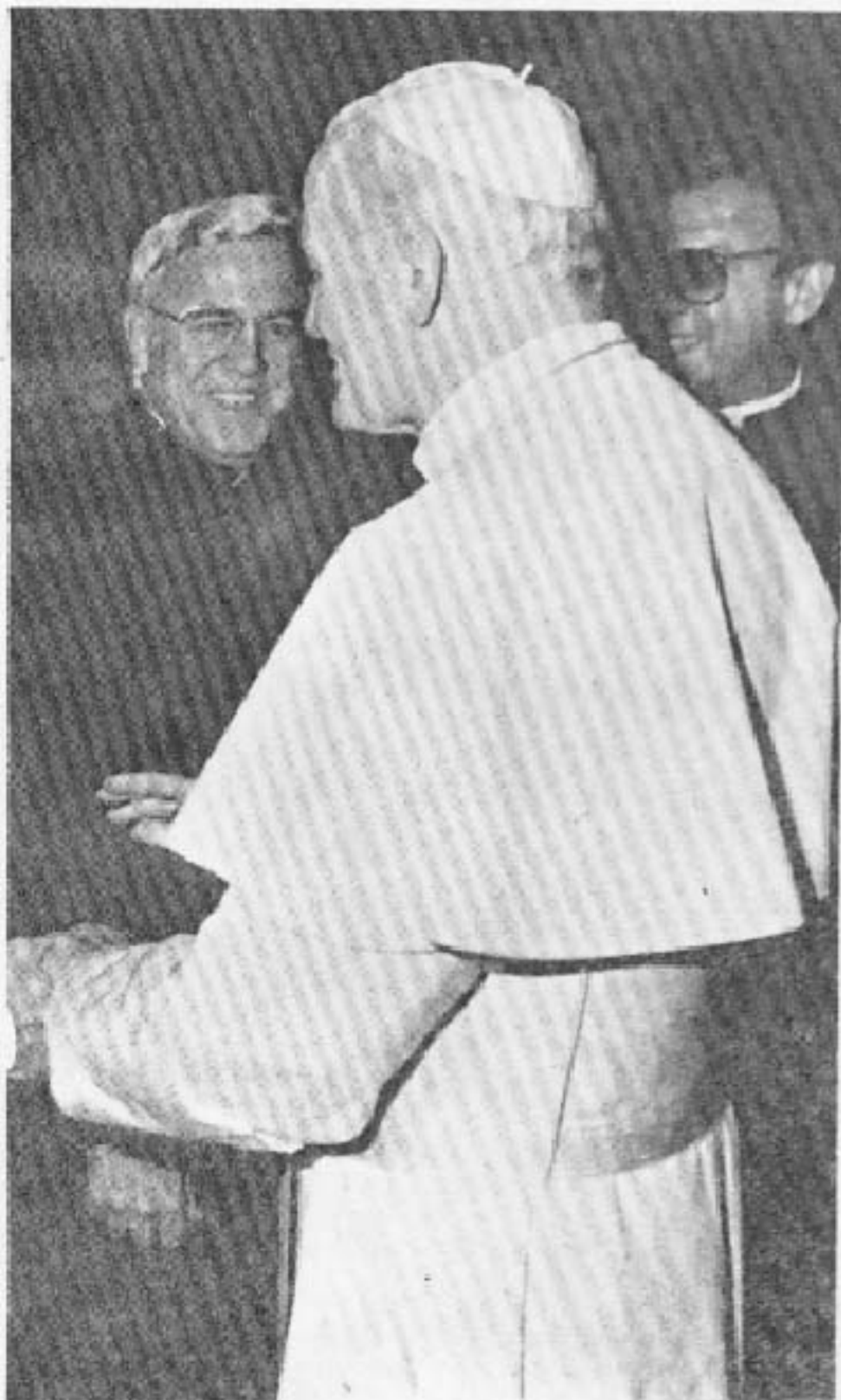
During my first week Pat took some of them and myself on a safari to see some of the sights. At left we are pictured at one of our camp sites with a Massai man who dropped in for a visit. To see all the various animals in their natural habitat was something I'll long remember.

At the Bishop's suggestion, Pat came back to the States several years ago and got a plane that could be used to fly doctors to various remote spots. While there I had the good fortune to fly the clinic flights one week. (Pat and I are shown below with the plane).



With their four wheel drive vehicles it would take the doctor about 10 to 12 hours to drive to many of clinics. Many of flights were no longer than 8 or 10 minutes. Needless to say the plane is greatly appreciated by the medical personnel.

After the African adventure I ended up in Rome for a very delightful and inspiring three months. Our classes were excellent; the companionship of 34 priests from the States unbelievable; and top-notch profs. In addition to our classes there was ample time to explore Rome and the Vatican. There were side trips to various places in Italy, Paris, Switzerland, Austria and Greece. I am sure it is an experience I'll never again know. It was a great way to bring my 25th jubilee celebration to an end.



I did manage to get a little work done. I continue to put out the newsletter for the Flying Padres. This past summer our convention was in Lafayette, Louisiana. In August I took my vacation and teamed with IC Vail from Florida in presenting our NEET Experience weekend to divorced, widowed and single people in New Jersey. It was a great weekend and by the end of January we hope to have a Team manual available for others who might wish to present this weekend.

Following the weekend I fulfilled a dream of many years and traveled the East Coast (on the ground). I spent a couple of days in Washington, D.C., then on to Williamsburg, VA, Jamestown and Kitty Hawk. As you will notice below Orville and Wilbur insisted on having their picture taken with me. I, of course, was happy to oblige. We aviators have to stick together.

As we continue the process of developing our parish council and the various committees the work seems to increase with it. There hasn't been a great uprising to kick me out of my happy home so I guess I'm doing some things right.

After living alone for 13 years I now have a seminarian with me so that he might receive some pastoral experience. It's nice to have Pat McTaggart with us during this school year.



I still continue in all the other activities I've been involved in all these years. I've written about them before so you probably don't want to hear about that again.

The page getting full is evidently a sign for me to quit. I only hope Ann Landers approves of this year's effort. What is more important though is being back in touch with you.

Have a truly holy and blessed CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

Mel

Mel, stop by later for a drink!