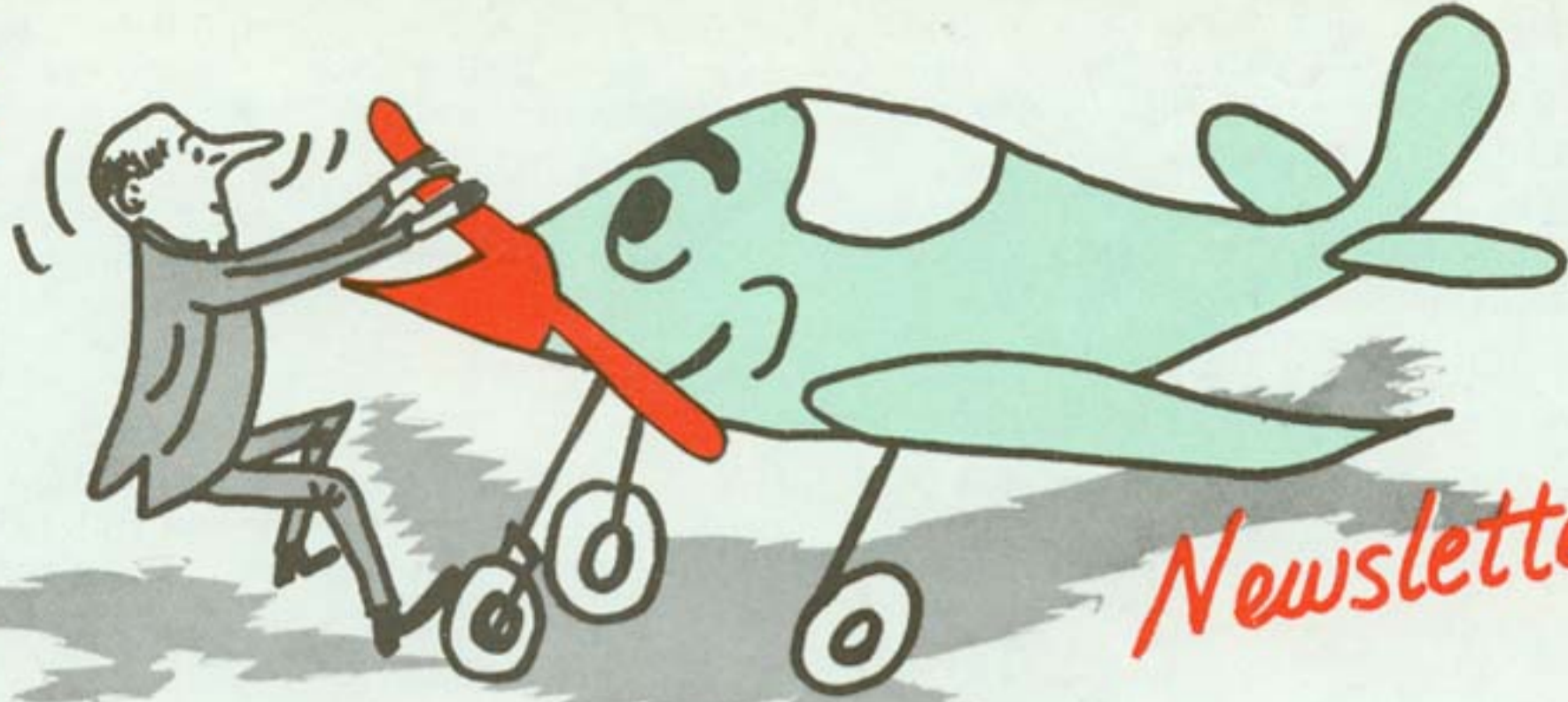


N.A.P.P.



Newsletter

VOL. XII

AUGUST 1984

NO. 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you attended our annual meeting in July you will never forget it. If you could have attended but did not you will regret it.

Most of the priests arrived on Monday, July 9. How we managed to pick out the Hemann Farm we will never know but we did. All those cornfields look so much alike. Some of the priests were on the ground with their radios and guided us in. It was almost like landing on an aircraft carrier. The first evening was spent in renewing acquaintances, sharing priestly and airplane stories. Then on Tuesday we offered a Concelebrated Mass in the Church of the Visitation in Stacyville. Father Carl Manternach was a most gracious host. Mass was followed by a delicious breakfast served by women of the parish. One of the local Flight Service men spoke to the group. The proposed flight to a well known restaurant in Wisconsin had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Instead we drove to nearby Minnesota for a fine evening meal.



Wednesday was a big day and a day that the people of Stacyville and nearby residents will never forget. It began with breakfast in the parish hall. This was followed by our annual meeting. Charlie Teufel and Bill Bevington were elected to offices. The meeting was brief and we covered all bases in a short time. Unique T shirts were given to all those present through the courtesy of Archbishop Frank Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska.

The big event came in the afternoon when we honored the Silver Jubilarians ... Father Mel, Sister Camilla and Father John. The Flying Padres as well as priests and Sisters from Iowa and nearby states arrived in large numbers. The church was filled to capacity. The music, the singing, the Liturgy....everything was first class. Sister Nancy Schreck of the Franciscan Sisters gave an inspiring talk on the meaning of "coming home." It was really an inspiring message. Father Ev had a difficult time getting through his part. Several times he filled up and had a hard

time speaking. The people in the Church could sense his emotions since all the members of the Hemann family had been brought up in this church. At the end of the Mass Archbishop Hurley spoke and delighted the congregation with his humorous and timely comments.

Following the jubilee Mass it was off to the Hemann Airport. We figure at least 2500 people were in attendance for the air show. We watched aerobatic flying by professionals, sky diving and an excellent demonstration of flying by a small home-built radio controlled plane. Then it was off to a dinner of pork and beef. Over 1500 meals were served. A sing-a-long brought the festivities to a close. And how those people of Iowa can sing.

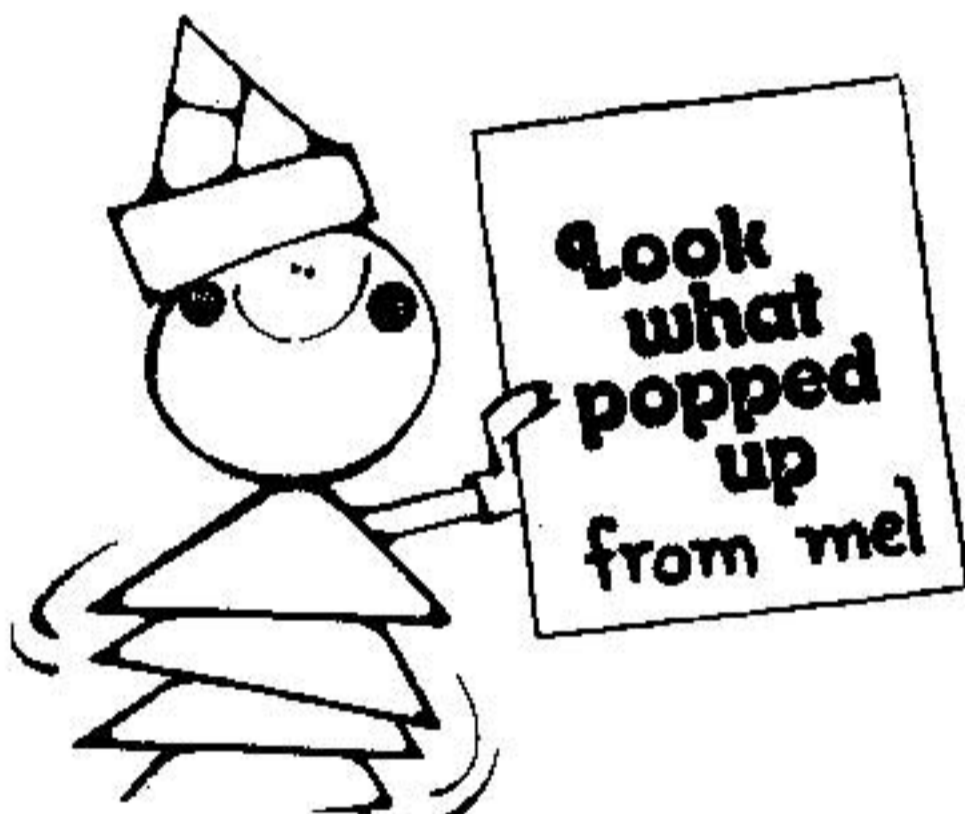
Some of the priests departed on Wednesday but most of us left on Thursday morning. We wish to thank Matt Hemann and his wife Karmen for the use of their farm. And we also wish to thank all those people who made available their motor homes.

STACYVILLE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

In the next newsletter in the Fall we will let you know of our plans for the annual convention in 1985.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John A. Dompka



1. I felt the editor would find it awfully difficult to give an objective report report on this year's NAPP convention. So I asked several to give me some of their impressions, their reflections, to share. You have the president's above. Others will follow.

2. I will be taking a sabbatical this Fall in Rome. I will leave on September 5 and take some of my vacation time to visit Pat Patten in Tanzania, East Africa, for a couple of weeks. While there I hope to offer some relief to the pilot who has been flying the 206 for the past year.

Because of my schedule which brings me back home on December 16 we will not put out a newsletter in October. We'll make this one a little extra thick and hopefully that will suffice till the December issue which Nancy and

I will no doubt get out right after Christmas.

3. Next year's convention will be July 9 and 10. The site at this point is not definitely set but by the next newsletter all will be arranged. Mark the dates NOW!!!

You will also find the time and date for the Midwest Fall Regional meeting that will be hosted by Gene Murray. Everyone is most welcome to come.

4. In addition to the minutes of the annual meeting, John and I are also giving a financial report on the NAPP convention. We feel for what we did we came out pretty well. Hopefully the added money in the treasury will be included in our gift to Marc.

Finally, the three of us - John, Camilla and myself - are most deeply grateful to those of you who came to celebrate with us. It is such a rare occasion in life when one is able to accomplish something more than you even dared hope for. We feel, with the support of men like yourselves, we had a CELEBRATION that was well integrated. Beginning with our faith sharing in Liturgy it all tied together in flying, sharing friendships, eating, drinking and singing.

Thank you for helping us make it happen.

Archbishop Francis T. Hurley, Anchorage, wrote the following in his paper:

It is great to get away; it is better to come home.

I do not know when the last time was that I spent several days unable to see mountains, even on the clear days. Around the cornfields of Iowa, it is difficult to find even a hillock.

An Iowa pig farm is what beckoned me into the "heartland of the USA" - for a double celebration

One was the annual convention of the National Association of Priest Pilots (NAPP).

Who are they? Just a bunch of priests who are pilots. Some fly as part of their ministry, like the priest who came in from Brazil. He got the "greatest distance honors," though he fudged by flying to the U.S. commercially.

Others fly for pleasure.

The convention? Like all pilots who love to top one another with yarns, they come together to swap stories about the ordinary, extra-ordinary, nutty things they do with airplanes. Most are in awe on the Alaskan exploits. As one put it, "we come together for two days, tell a bunch of lies about flying, go to confession, and go home."

But there was a special feature to this convention. The hosts were Fathers Mel and John Hemann, of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. They along with their sister, Sister Camilla of the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque, celebrated their 25th anniversary in religious life. The Hemann brothers, including their younger brother Fr. Everett (three priests, one nun, two married brothers and two married sisters make up the eight children of the family) helped found the NAPP.

Mel and John decided to tie the celebration and the convention together. Some hosts they are. They smoothed off (so to speak) a 2500 foot swath of cornfield for a runway on the family farm. Some 35 planes plopped down on it. They invited their family and friends for miles around to a beef and pork barbecue - to join the convention gang of 41. They arranged a sky-diving and an aerobatics show over the farm and then served dinner to almost 2000 people. That's right, 2000.

Proudest of all at the celebration were Mr. and Mrs. Hemann, parents of the clan who themselves have celebrated 50 years of marriage. They knelt with pride among the crowd of 600 in the packed town church in Stacyville, their married children and their grandchildren around them in the pews, their daughter and sons on the altar. The priest pilots concelebrated, along with some 40 local priests. The liturgy was inspiring, the music magnificent, the mood relaxed and reverent, a most pleasing example of a family community of faith exhilarated and joyful at God's presence and at the presence of one another.

The barbecue dinner and festivities went on late into the night. Early in the morning I bounced N92105 down the cornfield runway and out across the plains.

This celebration was much more than just a pleasant event. It was a profound experience of the meaning of a family and a community of faith, of the Catholic faith. The City of Dubuque has 65,000 people but the Archdiocese, scattered over that rich farm land has some 240,000 Catholics. Their Catholicism is not only an integral part of their families, as is true in all areas, but it is also part of their cultural pattern of life.

We in Alaska are building to that and, fortunately, we have families from Iowa - and even Stacyville - who are helping us develop that intensity of faith and culture.

It is not that the other fields are greener, it is that the Church always moves and builds and grows. It is good to be home to see it happening here.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02062

Dear Mel,

Just got back from vacation and just opened your letter - thanks for the invitation - hope I am not too late.

The Convention was wonderful. As you said beforehand, each one has a flavor, a distinctive element of its own - and this one did; from the moment of trying to find the farm (never did see the Church from the air) to the RV's - the school showers, Mass opportunities - the never to be forgotten Hemann Mass celebration - a most beautiful and moving occasion, to the barbecues, the air show, the substitute for the Don-Q-Inn program, the camaraderie to the extraordinary hospitality of the Hemann Clan and associates - to the TV and news coverage, the FAA presentation, the jumpers, the aerobats - all made a wonderful package. There are elements, thank God, that never change - friendship, education, spirituality - but each convention casts them in a personal way and though a city boy by life, I must be a country boy by heart - I enjoy the atmosphere, the openness, the friendliness and freedom of the farm - even (as Pope John Paul II said as it rained on his celebration in Boston) when it rains. If things like that didn't happen there would be no spice. I thought it was a great convention, well planned - some people certainly did a tremendous amount of work and we should be most grateful to them.

I spoke to my people this morning at Mass as I asked them to pray for success before leaving. I told them how impressed I was and I hope it will inspire more vocations back here in the East.

I hope our spirit will continue - even though we get to see each other only once a year it is very important and many happy memories come forth from the first year to the present one - each convention has had its personal touch and the Hemann Farm one was most personal one. Congratulations to all of you, particularly the 4 principals in the Religious life - pray for us.

Sincerely,

Bob

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Sennott

P.S. . If you find a pair of black shoes - Wright Brothers, size 10/11, I left a pair someplace.

St. Henry's Church

6401 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

July 23, 1984

Dear Mel,

My visit to Stacyville reenforced for me the truth of the scriptual advice: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His justice and all else will be given to you" (Mt. 6,33). For a long time the most thrilling experience of my life had been my first solo flight, at the age of nineteen. Seven years later my ordination to the priesthood took first place - and still does. Reflecting on possible reasons for this the word "freedom" occurs - in the one case, freedom (at least partial) from earth's hold and in the other, freedom from the burden of questioning God's will. It is a wonderful gift to know the direction God wants for your life.

The Hemann celebration increased my appreciation for both the gifts of priesthood and flying and added at least two more - the beautiful liturgy, filled with so much meaning and affection and the fine example of family life. Your family has enriched my life. Thanks to all of you for sharing yourselves with your friends. I was glad to be among them. Congratulations to you, John, Sister Camilla and your family.

I hope you do not mind my using this experience in my homily Sunday. The reference to "fields" and "good grain" was too good to pass up!

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Bevington

(A friend and guest of mine during the jubilee week, LC Vail from Lighthouse Point, Florida)

Dear Mel,

You asked for some reflections so here goes. Now that I am back in Florida with sun, surf and traffic, I think about last week in Iowa.

First I want to thank you for being a most wonderful host. I didn't know what to expect during the week of celebrating with you. As usual it was an adventure. First meeting your family on Sunday was special. You've shared about them often and I found them to be quite a great group. Mass at the parish celebration was a very joyful and real loving day. The parish certainly radiated their love and support to you. I was especially touched during Mass as I saw you give the sign of peace to your Mom. Sorry I didn't have a camera to catch that moment for you.

Monday going to Stacyville via the camper was fun. I had lots of mixed feelings being a part of the NAPP convention but, thank you, for the marvelous experience. I found all to be friendly and indeed a fun filled group. As plans changed Tuesday the Priest pilots amazed me by their flexibility and cooperation, and your leadership, along with Matt, Karman, John, Ev and Bob's was outstanding. It was also fun to be presented with a FOPP hat. That was a surprise and honor.

Now this should have been enough. Yet the big, bright, clear day Wednesday brought the very moving music and singing of the nuns, the many priests, nuns, relatives and friends who came to join you, John and Camilla in celebrating 75 years of service in our church. I was extremely proud and moved by all three of you as your family shared all of you with us.

Later, the sight of the family farm as people arrived for the air show and refreshments blew me off my feet. What a time! Some great party!!! The air show, jumpers, and remote plane was like gazing at a christmas tree as a kid for the first time for me. I just took everything in with delighted inner excitement. Winding up with the sing-a-long and sharing in the absolute joy of your family and friends relaxed happiness was just perfect to close the day, the wonderful day.

How lucky I am to have crossed the paths of so many in such a short time. Thank you for the experience and for being able to share your 25th with you.

God bless you,

P.S. Miles, Edwina and I will surely clown for your 50th.

LC





CDR Jim Kelley, USN, Bethesda, Maryland:

21 July 1984

Dear Mel,

I consider it a privilege to have experienced the convention in Iowa with you, your family, friends and NAPP this year! It was a fitting 20th celebration for NAPP because it brought out what we are all about in the priesthood. We are a family, first of all, dedicated to the Lord in the service of his loved ones.

How your mother and father must wonder, at times, at what their love and patience have brought about through the years - the many people our Lord has touched through the priesthood and sisterhood of four of their offspring and the equally important, yet unseen, influence of their other four children.

I know I'll never experience a better "grass roots" celebration than yours if I live and fly long enough to be 200! Thanks for the brilliant idea and the realization of it in this year's convention. Thanks again for including us in your family life and celebration.

May you, your parents, brothers and sisters, have many more years in the continued service of the Lord.

In Christ,

Jim Kelley
Jim Kelley

(Dave White, Bremerton, Washington, sent this card)

I was with you in spirit. I hope everything was the best.

I had every expectation of coming. However, I didn't send notice because much could go wrong. It did. As of July 1 I was left without an associate, (in this parish of 1100 families!). A replacement hasn't arrived, yet!

I am back flying after a real discouraging few years with the FAA beauracracy and my medical. No real problem, but they sure make it difficult if you take hypertension medication.

I still may fly to the Midwest in the early Fall. We shall see. Hello to all

Dave White

MIDWEST REGION MEETING

Gene Murray will host the Midwest Fall Regional Meeting.

Fly in to Storm Lake, Iowa

Meeting dates: Sun. evening Oct. 7
Mon. Oct 8

Write Gene at St. Columbkilles Rectory
Box 278
Varina, IA 50593

Call him at 712-288-6446

Don't miss it!!

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS
 21st ANNUAL CONVENTION --- JULY 10 & 11, 1984
 STACYVILLE, IOWA
 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Registration Fee's \$3,290.00
 47 members and guests @ \$70.00 each

EXPENSES

Mobil Motel of R.V.'s and Campers	\$1,531.44
Rental of units	\$957.18
Gas to shuttle units to and from Stacyville	\$457.26
Special electrical hook-up and electricity used	\$117.00
 Refreshments	 \$ 217.65
Bar at the farm on Monday & Tuesday and bar at Tuesday banquet in Minnesota. Includes booze, beer, mix, soda & snacks	
 Food	 \$ 397.65
Includes Monday cook-out and Tuesday and Wednesday brunch at church	
 Tuesday Evening Banquet	 \$ 589.24
Lansing Corners - Austin, Minnesota	
 Visitation Church Rosary Society	 \$ 100.00
Donation for serving the two morning brunches at the church	
 Matt & Karmen Hemann	 \$ 200.00
Includes expense for spraying area for insects, phone calls and other expenses for running here and there, etc. etc.	
 St. Patrick's - Cedar Rapids, Iowa	 \$ 54.02
Office expenses for mailing and telephone calls, etc.	

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,090.00

INCOME	\$3,290.00
EXPENSES	\$3,090.00
PROFIT	<u>\$ 200.00</u>

NOTE: The \$200.00 profit has been mailed to the N.A.P.P. treasury. I'm sure it will go to a good cause.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Father John Brickley who provided his own R.V. for use.
 Father John Paisley who provided an R.V. from a parishioner.
 Father Irvin Weber who provided an R.V. from a friend.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS INC.

1 9 8 4 MINUTES

The 21st Annual Meeting of the National Association of Priest Pilots was called to order by President John Dompka on Wednesday morning, July 11, 1984 in Visitation Church Hall, Stacyville, Iowa. There were 41 Charter, Regular and Associate members present along with 7 guests. Among the guests were members of F.O.P.P. (Friends of Priest Pilots).

Minutes of the 1983 Annual meeting had been distributed, read silently and approved as printed. The Treasurer's report had been distributed, read silently, explained briefly by Charles Teufel, and approved as printed.

Discussion of our annual contribution of funds in excess of \$6,000. Four suggestions included the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska; Marc Tilia and his work in Brazil; also "Preacher" Smith and his work in the country of Peru, S.A.; and a Bishop in Mexico. Motion by Mel Hemann, seconded by Frank Nemmers, to send our annual contribution to Father Marc Tilia, diocese of Kansas City, Kansas, who is present at our meeting. Motion passed with a hand vote. Marc announced acceptance of our contribution, brief explanation of his work, and an invitation to hold the convention in Brazil.

Election of Officers. This being an even numbered year, the 1st Vice President and Treasurer are to be elected. The Constitution states that the President and Vice Presidents may only serve two successive terms of office. As a result Henry Haacke is not eligible for re-election.

Nominations for First Vice President were accepted. John Wolesky and Bill Bevington were nominated. Motion to close nominations passed. Paper ballot with Bill Bevington elected for a two year term.

Nominations for Treasurer were accepted. John Wolesky and Charles Teufel were nominated. Motion to close nominations passed. Paper ballot with Charles Teufel being re-elected for another two year term.

Concerning next year's elections of President, Second Vice President and Secretary. Jack Paisley announced that he would rather not be nominated for re-election.

Convention sites for the 1985 meeting were discussed. Bernie Bush will not be able to host the convention in 1985 because of his PhD studies. He hopes to be able to serve as host another year. President Dompka attempted to contact Al Sigur and explained that Al hope to host another convention in Lafayette, Louisiana. An alternate was suggested by Bob Kirsch that we consider El Paso, Texas. President Dompka will announce the selection in the N.A.P.P. Newsletter. The dates of the convention would be July 9-10, 1985 and supposedly on July 8-9 in 1986. (Mark your calendars).

Charlie Teufel hopes Charter members will help identify the 1964 picture in the scrap book provided by John Bellon.

Comments by President Dompka about neglecting golf and flying. Also to stress the universality of the Church we should consider substituting for one another so there could be continued study and renewal. (Is there anyone in the Bahamas need help?)

(Continued)



"It is with paternal satisfaction that the Holy Father views the efforts of the members of the National Association of Priest Pilots to encourage the use of air transportation to obtain ever more abundant spiritual fruits from their sacerdotal ministry and missionary apostolate."

Vatican, Sept. 29, 1964



New Business included details about the Convention at Visitation Church and the Hemann family farm, including the air show after Mass and the barbeque dinner. Archbishop Hurley announced a special gift of T-shirts for everyone.

Motion for adjournment by Everett Hemann, Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

JACK

Jack Paisly, Secretary.

Members present:

Augustine Abeywickrema Antoine Attea, Miles Barrett, John Bellon, William Bevington, Tom Brady, John Brickley, John Dompka, John Esquibel, John Friederick, Thomas Geelan, Henry Haacke, Everett Hemann, Mel Hemann, John Hemann, John Herzog, David Hogan, Frank Hurley, Emmett Johns, James Kelley, Bob Kirsch, Art Kleve, Gene Murray, Ed Murray, Frank Nemmers, Jack Paisley, Bert Pepowski, Ray Radzieta, Nick Rossello, Francis (Jerry) Scanlan, Phillip Schmitt, George Schneider, Victor Schoenberger, Robert Sennott, Dick Skriba, Pete Sweeney, Charles Teufel, Marc Tilia, Irvin Weber, John Wolesky, Alvin Werth, and Associate member Edwina Tabares.

Guests included LC Vail, Rohan Lowe, Darlene, Dick Spellman, Mary (Schneider) Lamb, Jeanne (Schneider) MacNeill, and Suzanne Wertz.

1984 CONVENTION WRAP-UP

1. All those who attended the Convention will be receiving a copy of THE WITNESS, Dubuque's Archdiocesan paper, which did a great job on covering the Convention.
2. A very special thank you to Dick Skriba for providing himself and his portable 720 channel transceiver to act as "controller" for all inbound Convention aircraft.

Thanks a lot, Dick!

3. Every Convention in recent years has had a special momento.

We are presently working on a pin that will be included in the Convention goer's December newsletter. The pin is a display of Collins Radio's flight director - the Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS). EFIS is the newest generation of computer-driven avionics in which flight data is presented on TV-like tubes on the instrument panel.

At this time they aren't quite ready so we'll include them next time, and they'll be ready to put on your hat for next year's Convention!



EVERYONE LOVES A BALLOON



BERT PEPOWSKI & EV HEMANN



ARCHBISHOP HURLEY AND FUTURE NAPP^{ers}



BERT PEPOWSKI & EV HEMANN



ARCHBISHOP HURLEY AND FUTURE NAPP'ERS



SOME OF THE CROWD VIEWING THE AIRSHOW



AERIAL VIEW AT HEMANN FARM