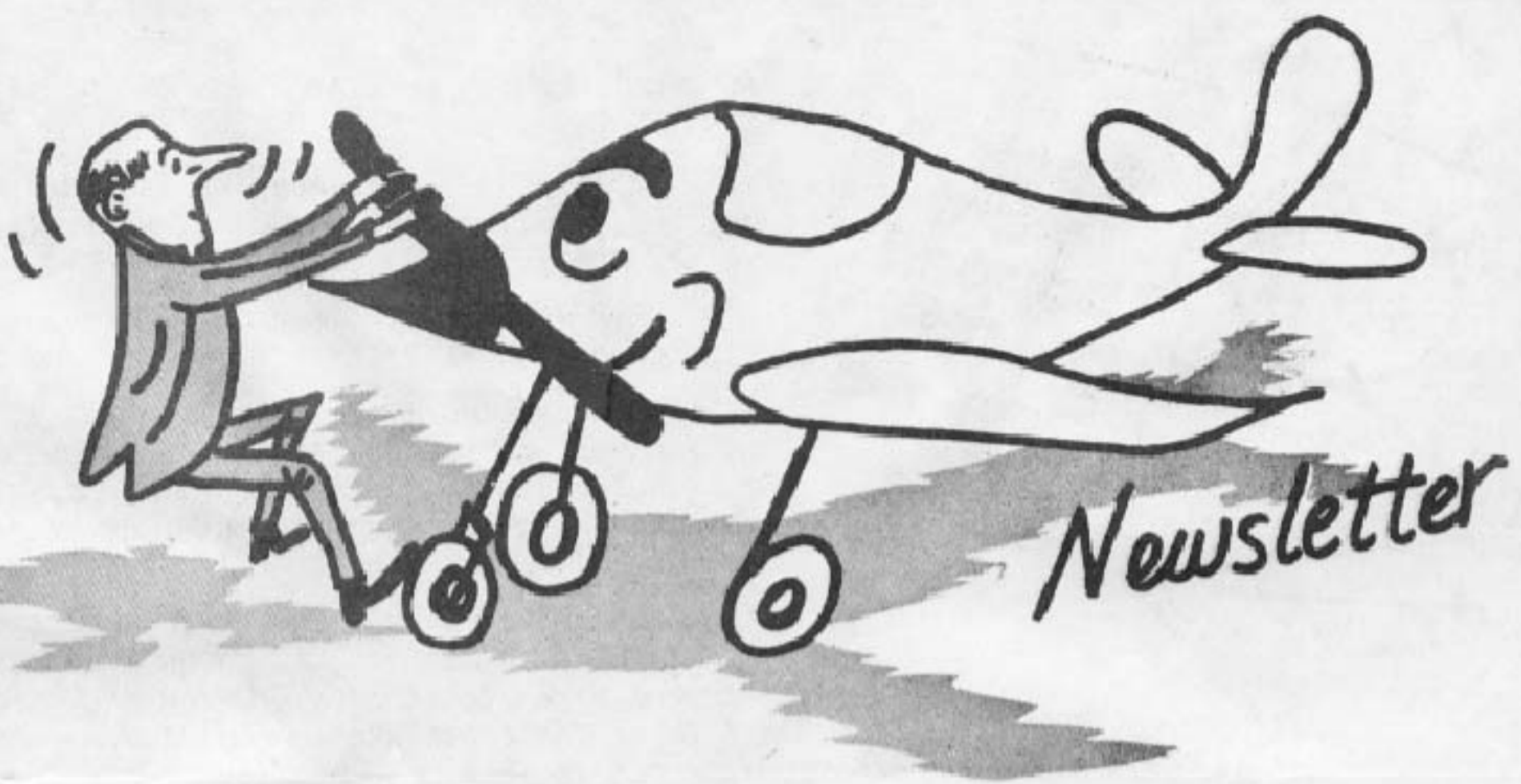


N.A.P.P.



[SORRY!!! Like Mother Hubbard's cupboard, the NAPP letterhead file was bare when we went to press. We'll have the colored copy in time for the June issue].

VOLUME XXIV

APRIL 1987

NO. 5



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The message this month comes from Pittsburg, THE CITY WITH A SMILE, the site of the 24th annual convention of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of PRIEST PILOTS. The convention dates are July 7 and 8.

No doubt some of you will be arriving as early as Sunday, July 5. For the "early birds" there will be a special Pittsburg by night tour.

Monday's arrivals will be hosted to a Pittsburg by day tour. The evening is open at this time.

The Convention begins on Tuesday, July 7. That day will include a tour of US Air and an opportunity

to mingle with the air crews and also some simulator time. Other activities are still pending at this time.

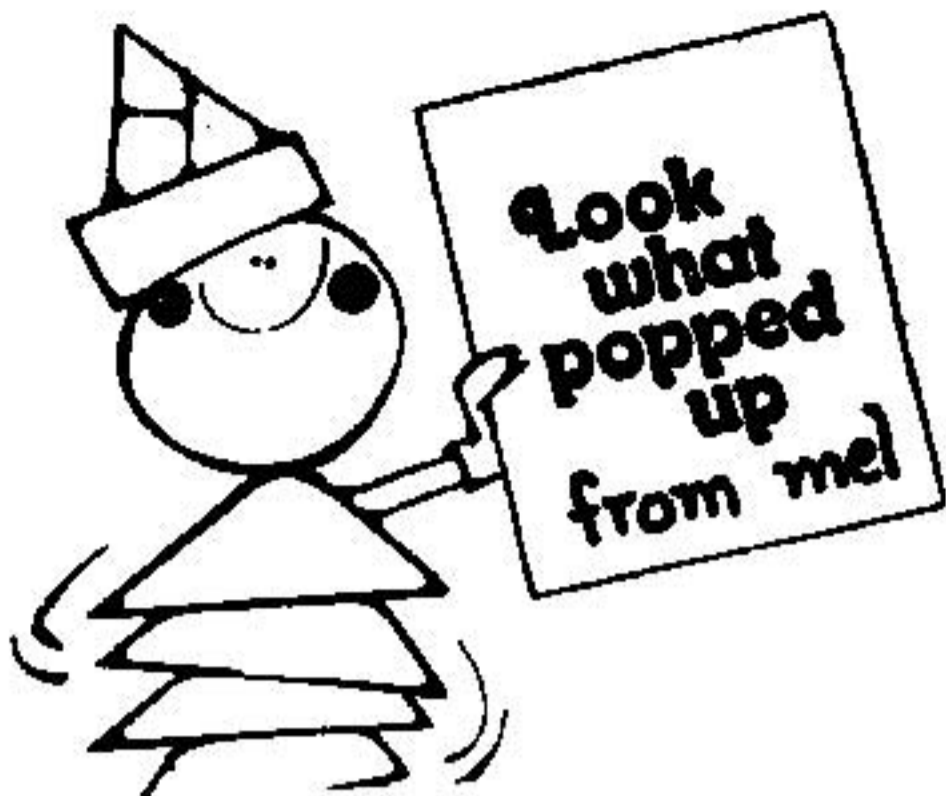
Some time on Tuesday or Wednesday we will have the annual meeting and the annual banquet on Wednesday evening. Other activities for Wednesday are still in the planning stage.

If any of the priests wish to buy a Clergy Discount Card, you may write to:

Michael F. Buckley  
 Washington National Airport  
 Washington, D.C. 20001

Cost is \$25.00 for 2 years.

If you fly in yourself, the only cost will be a \$5.00 landing fee if you buy your gas from the local FBO. No tie down fees for Convention goers.



As usual we have several items of interest in this issue.

1. The 1987 NAPP directory is included with this mailing. During the final days preceding Holy Week we had the following count:

129 Paid and Complimentary members for 1987  
21 Possibles ????

If my memory serves me correctly, the 129 number is the best we've done for years. CONGRATULATIONS! What helped to bring the number up was a few new members and a few from the past who responded to the appeal we made in the last issue.

The number included in the 21 Possibles ???? are 21 faithful souls who just haven't gotten around to sending in their dues. We on the Executive

Committee know that you really want to belong so we are including your name in the directory. This also entitles you to yet another dues envelope. Will you PLEASE send in the money? It sure helps to keep things straight.

2. Following R. K. (Preacher) Smith's accident, Archbishop Hurley sent me a variety of newspaper clippings. I also received one or two others. I am including the articles as they were sent. Hopefully the copies will duplicate well enough so that you can read these accounts.

One of the "good things" that came out of Preacher's accident was the surfacing of NAPP co-founder, Bob Wendeln. He, along with Henry Haacke, hosted the first convention in Carrollton, KY in 1964. Several years later Bob resigned the active ministry and we lost contact. The evening of Preacher's funeral in San Diego, Henry called and his opening remark was, "Guess who I just finished talking to?" Bob is living in San Diego and knew Preacher. He was surprised to find out that NAPP was still in existence and so made contact with Henry. I sent him the last newsletter and a few days later I had a nice conversation with him. Bob has once again re-joined the organization he helped found and we look forward to seeing him and his wife at future meetings.

3. We would like to remind the Midwest members in particular of our regional meeting, May 4, in Wichita. The information from the last issue will once again be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The highlight will be a look at Beech's "Starship." Let Bill Carr know of your arrival time, etc.

4. This issue also has the informational sign up sheet for the July convention in Pittsburg. This will begin the count down to the 25th convention in July of 1988 in Kentucky.



**ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

REV. MEL HEMANN  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BOX 309  
PRESTON, IOWA 52069



# briefs from here and there

From Jack Lawler in Pinehurst, Mass, on March 4:

Dear Mel,

Enclosed is latest information regarding lapel wing manufacturer. They are under new ownership and possess the dye.

All well in Boston, plenty of snow and cold to make up for past three years. Just back from a few days in Fla. and now the plane goes in the shop for annual. I do most of it myself. Celebrating the 50th of the parish with a series of events including losing my associate in July who has volunteered for three years with Glenmary. No replacement will cause me to retire but time will tell.

Hope to see you in July

Fraternally,

Jack

---

From Dick Skriba, Chicago, on Ash Wednesday:

Merry Lent Mel!

A few more details on what we spoke over the phone.

Paul O'Connor, who was an active member about 10-15 years ago, with whom I flew a Helio Courier to Zambia informs me that he has ALS - also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He just learned of it in the summer of '86. As of now he can still fly but can't drive.

I hope all NAPPers keep him in their prayers.

---

While on Retreat, Raymond Lagesse, SJ, writes the following:

Dear Mel,

I am on Retreat so I am sending cash since I'll be away from my desk for a while. (I hope that causes no problems). I too never knew about the lapel pins - put me down for one please.

I also got the insert about "Preacher" Smith. I'll remember him in my prayers while on Retreat. I am also happy to notice in the newsletter the presence of other Jesuits in the Assn. If any of the members are flying through St. Louis, land at Downtown ST. Louis - Parks airport in East St. Louis, Illinois and give me a call.

Raymond R. Lagesse, SJ  
Director of Campus Ministry  
Parks College  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206

(618) 337-7500 X285  
337-7554 evenings and weekends.

# Missing plane, victims found

NORTH BEND — No survivors were found Saturday when the burned wreckage of a missing single-engine plane was located east of here, the U.S. Coast Guard reported.

Petty Officer Jeff Hyett in Seattle identified the victims as the Rev. R.K. Smith, 58, a Catholic priest from Medford who was the pilot, and his passenger, Tom Goetz, 60, of Ojai, Calif.

The chartered Cessna 182 was over the ocean on an instrument approach to the North Bend Airport when it lost radio contact with the tower Friday at 8:25 p.m.

Petty Officer Greg Stahl of the North Bend Coast Guard station said the wreckage was found by a Coast Guard helicopter about 3 p.m. Saturday in a hilly area three miles east of the North Bend Airport.

## Richard K. Smith

The Rev. Richard K. Smith, Order of Saint Augustine, former pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Dillingham and the missions in Bristol Bay area, died in a plane crash Feb. 20 at North Bend, Ore. He was 58.

He visited Dillingham as a supply priest in December of 1977 and volunteered for permanent assignment in the area. From his arrival in September 1978 until June 1983, he piloted his own plane throughout the Bristol Bay area, saying Mass weekly in Clark's Point, King Salmon and Naknek and occasionally in other villages, including Sand Point and Cold Bay. After leaving Alaska, he served in the Augustinian Fathers' mission in Peru, San Diego and Medford, Ore., and was on a mission flight at the time of the accident.

He was born Sept. 30, 1928 in San Diego.

Mass and burial will be Monday in San Diego. The Anchorage memorial Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 p.m. Monday in Holy Family Cathedral with Msgr. Francis A. Cowgill as celebrant.



Father R.K. Smith



## Fr. R.K. Smith, OSA priest-pilot not pilot-priest

Francis T. Hurley  
Archbishop of Anchorage

Father Smith died when his C182 crashed a few miles from the runway on approach to North Bend, Oregon airport. It might never be known precisely what happened. He reported his approach, said that he was at 1500 feet in and out of the clouds, flew over the airport to the VOR to pick up a north bound radial. The plane struck a tree and plunged into the earth. The demolished and burned plane was found Saturday morning.

The reaction of sadness is widespread and especially for us in the Archdiocese of Anchorage. Father Smith had come to Dillingham to give the people its first resident priest in many years. For five years, with Holy Rosary Church as his base, he flew out to King Salmon, Naknek, Iliamna, Sand Point, Cold Bay and a host of villages. He was at his best when with his plane, 66 Yankee, he brought a priestly presence to people in remote and isolated spots.

Father Smith was first and foremost a priest, an Augustinian priest. He was a man of deep prayer, consistent and persistent in following his commitment to the priesthood and his personal convictions.

What a dream he had for Bristol Bay and the Aleutian Islands! He envisioned an Augustinian monastery in Dillingham with five priests and a couple of brothers to cover everything from Bristol Bay to Attu. It did not deter him that there were few people along the chain and a drastic shortage of priests. That was his dream. Sometimes his dreams were unrealistic, but those who saw him as a prayerful priest, eager to reach out to people, were able to appreciate him.

Reach out to people he did in an unselfish way. At Christmas he played "flying Santa Claus" to a number of villages. Every place he took pictures, developed them himself and then gave them out to delighted adults and children alike. That touch, with his ever brilliant smile and sense of humor, (oh, those awful puns!) gave him a special rapport with people.

When asked by the Augustinian Fathers to take some continuing education and then other more earth bound pastoral assignments, he did so, reluctantly but obediently, putting 66 Yankee up on blocks. He was first an Augustinian priest.

Just last year a new prospect was put to him, to go to the Augustinian parish in Medford, Oregon and from there supply for priests in remote places who needed time off. 66 Yankee was back in the air again. Over a period of seven months the word spread and more and more calls came to supply. That was his mission last weekend when he flew off to North Bend.

With him was a layman from Ojai, California, where R.K. (as he was usually called) had served for many years. There he made many friends, a number of whom came to visit in Dillingham, some to do valuable volunteer work. They evidenced the deep attachments many had personally for him.

R.K. like most pilots, especially Alaskan pilots, had a battery of stories to tell, often embellished for the listener. Those who flew with him, however, as did Sister Ida and Sister Margaret of the St. Ann's Sisters, will relate how careful and calculating he was and the number of times he turned back. R.K. was proud of how carefully he made his calculations. One of his favorite stories was en route from Dillingham to Anchorage. His gas tank sprang a leak and about 10 miles southwest of Anchorage at 10,000 feet he ran out of gas. He declared an emergency and was cleared to any field. Most pilots would have landed at International, the closest. Not R.K. With his computer-like mind he calculated his descent ratio and knew he could from that height reach Merrill Field. He floated across the city, landed and rolled right to the base of the tower where the FAA officials were waiting. When asked why he did not land at the closer International Airport, he said simply that he had plenty of altitude. Later with his characteristic smile and laugh he added: "Besides, Merrill Field is where Sister Ida was waiting with the car to pick me up."

It does not take much calculation to know that no matter how R.K. was to die, he was destined for a safe landing with the Lord. Each day he offered Mass at the Lord's altar, repeated what each priest says at Mass: "Pray Brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." With confidence we can reply as the people always do at Mass: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church."

To which we add for this priest-pilot: "May he rest in peace."



# Plane crash kills pilot priest

by Fred Volz

Ojai's beloved "flying priest," Father Richard K. Smith, 58, and his friend Thomas Goetz, 60, an Ojai resident were killed early Friday night when their single-engine Cessna 182 crashed and burned on a ridge three miles east of the North Bend, Oregon, airport.

MASS OF Christian Burial for Smith will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Meiners Oaks at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Mass of Christian Burial for Goetz will be held at the church at noon Saturday.

Goetz, a retired aircraft designer for McDonnell-Douglas, was in Oregon on vacation. Smith was flying

## Father Smith, Tom Goetz die in Oregon storm

from Medford, where he was temporarily based, to Florence, Oregon, where he was to give Catholic services that weekend. Father Tom McLaughlin, of the Ojai parish, and Goetz's wife had driven to Medford and were to meet the two flyers later. They returned to Ojai Monday. Father Smith had been at a conference of the Augustinian Order in Ojai last week.

Goetz leaves his wife Barbara and nine children.

Melody Gillard, for many

years a reporter at the Ojai Valley News, and now co-publisher of a weekly newspaper at Bandon, Oregon, a few miles away from the crash site, said the weather had been "awful" at times - rain, hail, snow, wind. She said that Smith had reported switching to instrument flying when approaching the field from the ocean about 8:25 p.m.

COAST GUARD helicopters began searching at 1 a.m. and finally spotted the wreckage in

a hilly area about 3 p.m. Saturday. Lou Parris, a Coast Guard spokesperson, said the plane and both bodies were severely burned.

Those who flew with Smith and knew how careful a flyer he was could only speculate that it could not have been pilot error. The FAA will investigate the accident and report later how the accident happened.

This writer and the Rev. Walter Robie flew many thousands of miles with Smith in Alaska visiting the priest during many summers in his lonely vigil in Western Alaska, "world's largest Catholic parish." We flew with him on instruments over the Alaskan Rockies in icing conditions, in a

(Continued on pg. A-12)

## ...crash

typhoon in the Aleutians, and to remote Eskimo villages in high winds to landing strips the width of El Roblar Avenue. All in '66 Yankee, his favorite single-engine Cessna. He also flew medical supplies to Mexico some years ago.

He flew his little plane to Peru over the reaches of the Pacific Ocean and the Andes to help build airfields for the Indians in the mountains, where

they had been cutoff by torrential rains. He later flew to Chicago to equip a larger plane that could carry supplies into the mountains there. Some of the funds to buy that plane were raised in the Ojai parish.

THE CITIZENS to Preserve the Ojai gave Smith a man-of-the-year award 12 years ago for devising a simple-to-operate machine to bundle newspapers. By collecting newspapers all

over Ojai Valley, bundling and selling them, Smith raised many thousands of dollars for Villanova School where he was a teacher from 1975 to 1977. He also served as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church from 1969 to 1975.

Father Smith is survived by his brother Palmer and sister Ellen Harkins. He was born in San Diego and taught at St. Augustine High School, where

he had graduated in 1947.

From September 1985 to June 1986 Smith was associate pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in San Diego. He was transferred to Medford to assist with parish work. Many churches in Oregon are staffed with only one priest, who found it impossible to get away. It was on this mission to relieve the Florence priest that Smith and Goetz were killed.

# Ojai man and priest killed in plane crash

An Ojai man and a former Ojai priest were killed when their single-engine plane crashed near North Bend, Ore.

Thomas Goetz, 63, was a passenger in a Cessna 182C being flown by his best friend, the Rev. Richard K. Smith of Medford, Ore. The two were on their way to North Bend on Friday when the plane struck a ridge about five miles northeast of the city.

Goetz, a retired aircraft designer for McDonnell Douglas Corp., was in Oregon on vacation.

Smith, 58, was one of the most experienced priest-pilots in the country, and had logged more hours aloft than nearly any priest in the nation, said the Rev. Bill Ryan, who worked with Smith at Medford's Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Smith was a priest at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and a teacher at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai for many years before he moved to Oregon several years ago.

Ryan said Smith had spent most of his 30 years in the clergy



Smith

flying in rugged lands from from Peru to Alaska.

Ryan said that when Federal Aviation Administration officials called him Friday night to tell him they were going to begin searching for Smith's plane, he said: "Don't worry about him - no sweat, he'll be OK."

Ryan said it was a terrible shock when a Coos County sheriff's deputy called back Saturday evening to report that Smith and Goetz had been found dead.

Smith, a native of San Diego, had done missionary work for many years, including a stint in Peru, where he was asked by a

bishop to design an aircraft for landings and takeoffs on short mountain airstrips. He was an inventor with several patents and a high school physics teacher, between assignments as a parish priest and pastor.

One of his most challenging assignments was the five years he spent serving a parish that stretched from Anchorage to Japan in the Aleutian Island chain, Ryan said.

"Any pilot will tell you that's the most dangerous place to fly in the whole world," Ryan said.

# Plane crash kills 'pilot' priest

By Eileen Kramer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (NC) — An 58-year-old Augustinian priest-pilot known for his flying ministry in Alaska was killed in Oregon Feb. 20 in a plane crash.

The priest, Father Richard K. Smith, was to be buried in San Diego Feb. 28. A memorial Mass was held March 2 at Holy Family Cathedral in Anchorage.

He died when the plane he was flying hit a treetop and burst into

flames as he tried to land in bad weather in the Medford, Ore., area where he was recently assigned.

Father Smith won notoriety during his 1978-1983 Alaskan assignment when he flew to villages in Alaska's Bristol Bay coastal region, once dubbed "the largest parish in the world."

Missionary Sisters who worked with him said his flying brought him to areas which had not seen a priest in 20 years. They also said he worked with the U.S. Air Force on Operation Santa Claus, a Christmas project to bring gifts and fresh fruit,

a rarity in rural Alaska, to children in isolated villages.

He also organized 10-day trips of parish teams into villages in the Aleutian Islands "for religious education and to make the church visible," said Sister of St. Anne Ida Brasseur, who worked with him.

In 1983, Father Smith left Alaska and went to an Augustinian mission in Peru, where he surveyed the terrain for possible landing sites and set up a flying service to enable church leaders to get to out-of-the-way places in their dioceses.



**Two Starships flying near Wichita**

SEE IT - MONDAY, MAY 4 - 2:00 PM

### MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING-

DATE: Monday, May 4

WHERE: Wichita, Kansas

HEADQUARTERS: Tudor Inn - Best Western

(ATTENTION: 9100 E. Kellogg

Sonnie: Wichita, KS 67206

priest pilots) 1-800-835-0240

CONTACT PERSON: Rev. William M. Carr

Box 214

Pittsburg, KS 66762

SPECIAL NOTES: *There is a special complication with this meeting as Bill is being transferred in a couple of weeks to the Pittsburg address. Thus the reason for the motel accomodations, etc.*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS FOR YOUR SCHEDULE.

DINNER & MEETING: Monday evening at the Tudor Inn

AIRPORT: JABRA - it's the closest to Beech & Inn

*(John Wolesky at Clay Center has offered lodging. Contact him if you're interested in his offer)*

SEE YOU IN  
WICHITA

### INSTRUMENT / COMMERCIAL

1. Rev. William M. Carr  
P.O. Box 214  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

2. Joseph M. Nettekoven  
St. Irenaeus Church  
5201 Evergreen Ave.  
Cypress, CA 90630

3. John L. Friederick  
221 3rd Ave. West  
Cresco, IA 52136

4. Ev Hemann  
Box 479  
Dubuque, IA 52001

5. Art Kleve  
3421 W. 9th St.  
Waterloo, IA 50702

6. John W. Hemann  
510 1st Ave. N.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

7. Edwina Tabares  
5409 Punta Alta NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS, INC.


FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1986

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>1985</u>	To June 8, <u>1986</u>	<u>1986</u>
Dues	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 1,330.00
Interest	665.80	193.34	514.63
Donations	55.00	75.00	75.00
NAPP Caps	0.00	0.00	5.00
Telephone Refund	0.00	0.00	10.91
Donation to Jose Llaguno (1984: Fr. Marc's Mission) Check Returned Insufficient Funds			1,000.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>2,100.80</u>	<u>1,498.34</u>	<u>2,935.54</u>

	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Postage	400.00		400.00
Newsletter, including labor	880.72	255.84	682.57
Administrative (labor)	7.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone	25.00	50.00	73.00
Ground School (IFR video cassettes)	236.86		
Donation to Jose Llaguno (1984: Fr. Marc's Mission)	1,000.00		
Photo Album	64.00		
Pictorial Directory	165.39	166.40	166.40
Brochures	0.00	0.00	137.28
Membership Pins	0.00	0.00	368.50
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	20.94
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>2,778.97</u>	<u>472.24</u>	<u>1,848.69</u>

	<u>SUMMARY</u>		
Assets, beginning of year	6,595.62	5,917.45	5,917.45
Receipts for the year	2,100.80	1,498.34	2,935.54
Expenditures for the year	2,778.97	472.24	1,848.69
<b>ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>5,917.45</u>	<u>6,943.55</u>	<u>7,004.30</u>
Checking (overdrawn in 1985)	-82.55	943.55	1,004.30
Savings certificate	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 5,917.45</u>	<u>\$ 6,943.55</u>	<u>\$ 7,004.30</u>

  
John A. Wolesky  
Treasurer



You've got a friend  
in Pennsylvania

Welcome to Pittsburgh



# Pittsburgh.

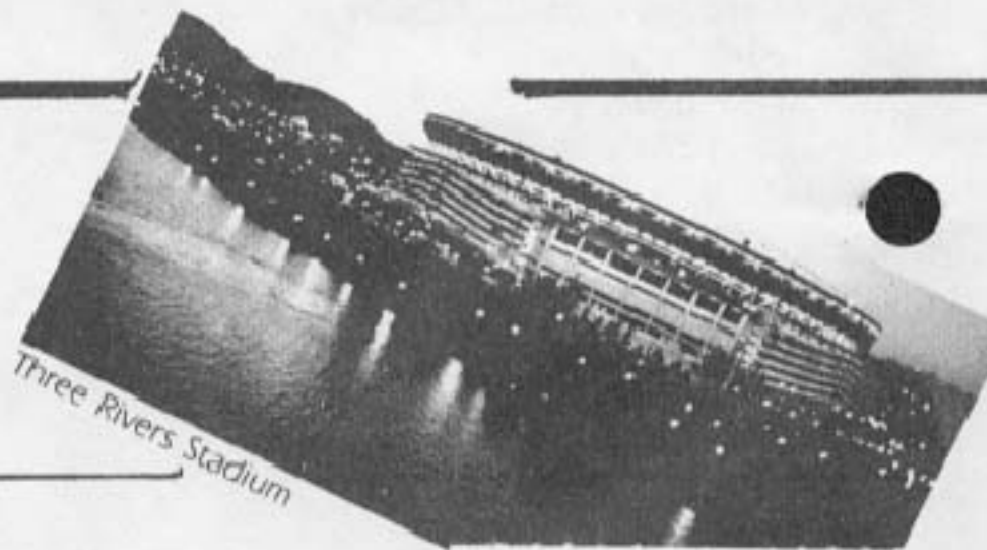
## The city with a smile.

JULY 7 - 8, 1987

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_



Three Rivers Stadium

FBO: Aero Service  
1/7 mile from  
La Quinto Motel  
\$37 single  
\$42 double

ARRIVAL BY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Private Plane N\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Commercial Flight #\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Car

ETA \_\_\_\_\_  
date/time

ETD \_\_\_\_\_  
date/time

RESERVATIONS TO:

PATRICIA STILLWELL  
One Parish Place  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



INSTRUMENT/COMMERCIAL

1. Rev. William M. Carr  
P.O. Box 214  
Pittsburg, KS 66762
2. Joseph M. Nettekoven  
St. Irenaeus Church  
5201 Evergreen Ave.  
Cypress, CA 90630
3. John L. Friederick  
221 3rd Ave. West  
Cresco, IA 52136
4. Ev Hemann  
Box 479  
Dubuque, IA 52001
5. Art Kleve  
3421 W. 9th St.  
Waterloo, IA 50702
6. John W. Hemann  
510 1st Ave. N.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
7. Edwina Tabares  
5409 Punta Alta NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

(I ran out of space in newsletter so I thought I would use this method rather than run off another full sheet. Not only does it cut the printing cost but also saves on additional postage. You (above) are the only ones receiving this)