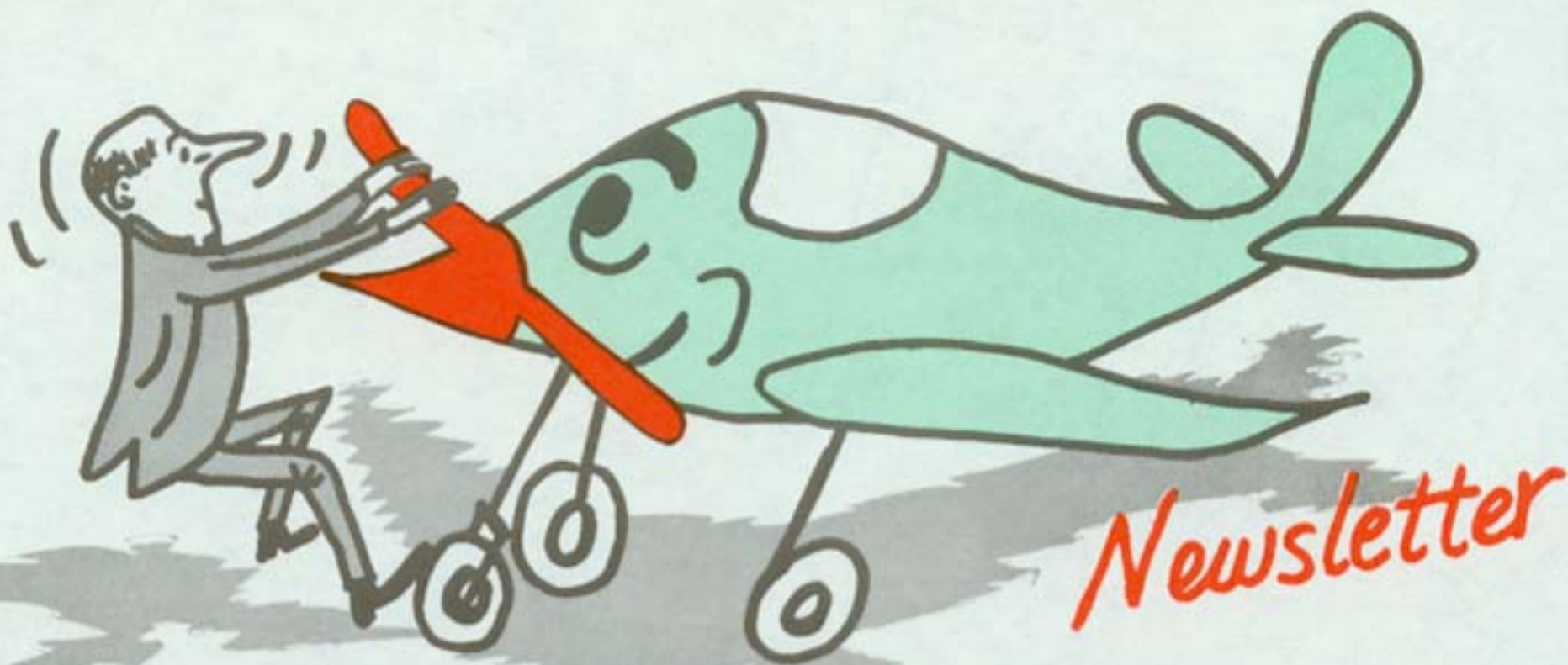


N.A.A.P.



VOLUME XXXII AUGUST 1994 NO. 1



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 31st annual N.A.A.P. convention is now in the record books --- and it was a good one! The excellent accommodations at the Vallombrosa Retreat Center served us well and the people there were even better. Bill Roche provided us with great opportunities for sight-seeing and some fine things to enrich our knowledge of aviation, including touring the "Blue Cube" and a good look at HUGE wind-tunnels. Our thanks to Bill for being a great host!

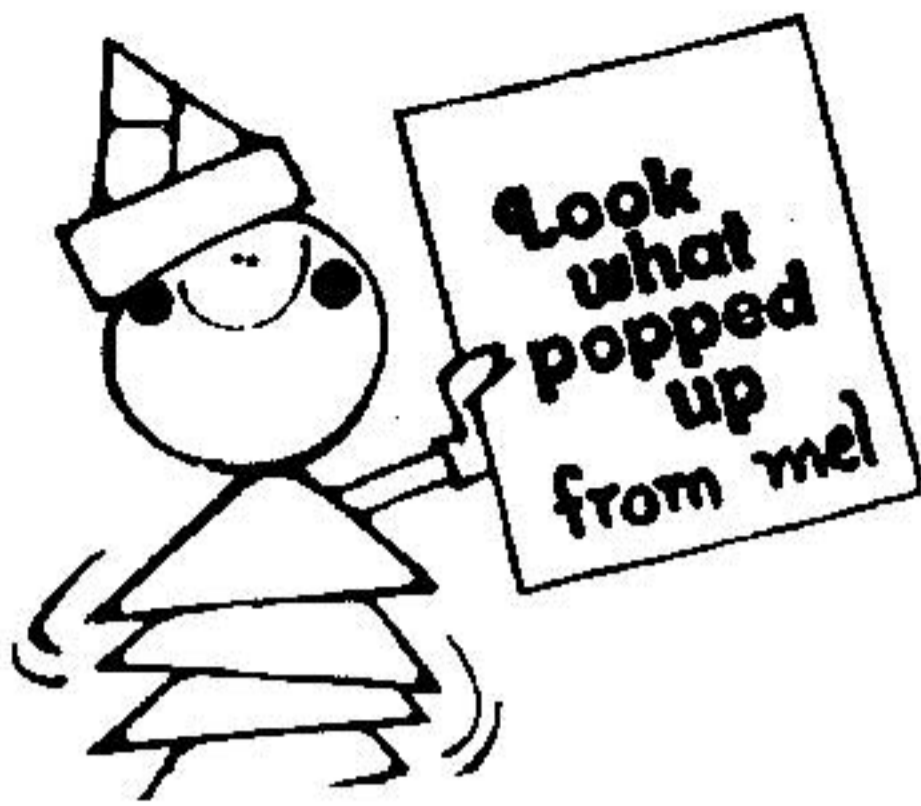
Flying has taken something of a back seat to our priestly duties of late, I suspect. But the memories of watching the traffic on I-

80 passing our C-172 on our westward struggle against a terrific head wind across Wyoming linger. On the other hand, Dave Hogan and I ran into some very nice people at the airport in Fort Bridger, WY. They removed the cowling, detected the source of some engine roughness, and replaced a plug in about an hour. All was done without a charge, not even for the plug! (No, they didn't know who we were). There sure are some nice people connected with aviation.

May the Lord enrich and encourage you in your priestly ministry so that His Kingdom may reach all four corners of our world.

Peace.

Tom Geelan



Another convention - 31 and counting - has come and gone. Secretary Bob Kirsch and the NAPP "unofficial official" photographer, John Bellon, have kept their records perfect. They are the only two who have made every convention. Bob's minutes are included with this mailing and we have a multitude of pictures that John has provided for your reminiscing, or envy, what ever the case may be. We may have to charter a 747 one day to transport all the NAPP albums to a convention so we can all view John's 31 year's labor of love

This issue also carries the unwelcome news of the death of two of our faithful members, Barney McMeel, SJ and Vic Schoenberger, OFM Conv. May they rest in peace.

Ed Higgins from Pontiac, IL forwarded an April 18 letter from a Wisconsin friend of Fr. Bill Menzel. In the letter he reports "that Bill has encountered serious back problems that appear headed for surgery late in May." Hopefully you are well on the road to recovery now Bill. In any case, be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers that all will continue to go well with you.

Thanks to Tom De Young of Wyoming, MI we have a new member, Phillip D. Nguyen of the Grand Rapids, MI diocese began flying on September 1, 1993 and got his private ticket on May 6, 1994. Phil is an Air Force chaplain presently assigned to Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

The Hemann family had a delightful experience on August 5 and 6. On Friday evening the 5th, 6 of the 8 sons and daughters and spouses of the married members of the late Bernard and Olive Hemann family met in Ames, IA at Ev's home for dinner, drinks and a good time. The next morning we gathered at Camp Dodge near Des Moines, IA for the official Army National Guard retirement ceremony for John. After 28 years he reached the magic number when compulsory retirement caught him. The final action in the ceremony was his promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General. I had the honor of pinning the new stars on John. Congratulations John! NAPP now has two generals...Lawler and Hemann.

John Vakulskas, Jr. has sent the final word on the Midwest Regional Fall gathering at his place in Milford, IA. Call or write John about your arrival plans. His letter is in this newsletter. Remember the date: Monday, September 26, 1994.

the place: St. Joseph Church

Milford, IA 51351

712-338-2274

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



REV. MEL HEMANN

20245 ST. JOSEPH DRIVE
RICKARDSVILLE, IA 52039

319-552-2233

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Rev. Victor Schoenberger, OFM Conv. died August 6, 1994. His funeral was August 9 in the chapel of St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, NY. Vic was 76 at the time of his death.

Vic was ordained in 1943 at the Cathedral in Albany, NY. 1943-45 were spent in advanced studies at Catholic University. He taught the next 7 years as a HS teacher in Trenton, NJ and the minor seminary of St. Francis in Staten Island. From 1956-60 he was director of the formation program for Franciscan Brothers in Watertown, guardian and rector of St. Anthony-on-Hudson from 1960-63, and directed the Franciscan mission program from 1970-79. He was pastor of St. Joseph Church in Schoharie, NY from 1979-85, and St. Francis Church in Northville from 1985-88. Ill health forced him to move to the friary in Rensselaer until 1992 when he moved to the nursing home where he died.

Long time NAPP convention goers will remember the many conferences Vic attended. In particular I remember the Montreal convention when Vic arrived in his home-built. That was perhaps his last great flight in his bird.

We thank Knobby Walsh and Owen Shanley for sharing the word of Vic's passing.

Rev. Bernard F. (Barney) McMeel, SJ, died on January 6, 1994 at the Northern Montana Hospital, Havre, Montana. "Several strokes," as the obituary reads, "carried him off."

Barney was ordained in 1954 and arrived in Alaska in 1955. With an eye to its perspective usefulness in the missions, he became a ham radio operator in college. Following an interruption for tertianship, he returned to Alaska for the DEW line (Distant Early Warning) of radar installations. By the early 1960's Barney had his pilot's license and a plane. In 1968 he was appointed Superior of the Alaska Jesuits, living at Fairbanks and functioning as pastor of McGrath.

In 1979 Barney took a theological sabbatical at Notre Dame. After a brief stint as pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Wrangell, Alaska Barney was persuaded to come as pastor to St. Paul's Mission on the Fort Belknap Reservation, Mont. This assignment, among the Assiniboines and a sprinkling of other tribes, was his last. Most of Fr. McMeel's years as a priest were devoted to serving Native American people, to whom he brought his gentle, courteous disposition and a quiet holiness.

We thank Barney's sister, Tess Roedl of South Bend, Indiana, for the news of Barney's death at age 72.



Saint Joseph Church

Rev. John Vakulskas, Jr.
Pastor

1305 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351
TEL: 712-338-2274
FAX: 712-338-2191

Friday, July 22, 1994

Rev. Mel Hemann
20245 St. Joseph Drive
Rickardsville, IA 52039

Dear Mel:

I hope everything went well for you out in San Francisco for the annual meeting.

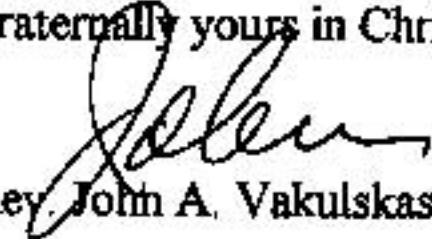
Everything is all set for the fall meeting of the National Association of Priest Pilots here at Saint Joseph Parish, Milford, Iowa. There is plenty of recreational opportunities around here including nine golf courses. So be sure to bring your clubs!

I have lined up for our group a tour of the Stylecraft Furniture Factory, here in Milford. This will be on the afternoon of September 26 and is an opportunity to see the manufacture of quality furniture for anyone who might be interested.

I am looking forward to our gathering. If anyone needs any lodging Sunday or Monday there shouldn't be any problem between the Vianney House and my house.

If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Rev. John A. Vakulskas, Jr.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS

Minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting

Our effective and efficient brother, President FR. TOM GEELAN, opened our 31st meeting at 5:00 P.M. sharp, the earlier hour having been selected as being more conducive to a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed procedure; we convened at the VALLOMBROSA RETREAT HOUSE at Menlo Park, California. Our Convention Host was FR. BILL ROCHE. There was a resounding round of applause in appreciation for FR. BILL'S work in providing an excellent convention for us. 38 persons were in attendance: 23 members (6 of whom were Charter Members); 4 Associate Members (three of whom are new, and we welcome GEORGE GRATTON, FRED WRIGHT and AL MALLEN) and 11 Visitors. We all duly grieved over our missing brethren who were conspicuously absent.

1. Copies of the MINUTES of our 1993 San Antonio meeting were distributed and reviewed. MOTION: Fr. Bill Roche/Fr. Bill Bevington: THAT THE MINUTES BE ACCEPTED: passed unanimously.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Fr. Ev Hemann passed out a written report showing a 7-1-93 balance of \$6,789.94 and a balance for 6-30-94 of \$8,706.77. We commend all our faithful members on our good financial condition. Fr. Ev commented on one omission, i.e. the 6-30-94 balance did not reflect a \$1,000.00 to be sent to Fr. Pat Patten in Africa. MOTION: Fr. Gene Murray/Fr. Al Werth: THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE

ACCEPTED. Unanimous passage.

3. NAPP, INC. Fr. Al Ruschman has once again personally paid the fee to keep us Incorporated under the laws of the State of Kentucky.

4. 1995 CONVENTION: Fr. John Hemann has received a letter from Fr. Dick Skriba offering to host the 1995 Convention at Midway airport, Chicago on July 11 and 12. Fr. John Bellon volunteered to help. MOTION: Fr. John Hemann/Fr. Ev Hemann: THAT FR. DICK SKRIBA'S INVITATION TO CHICAGO FOR 1995 ALONG WITH FR. JOHN BELLON'S OFFER TO ASSIST BE ACCEPTED: unanimously passed. Thanks much, Dick and John!! For 1996 Archbishop Frank Hurley again offers Anchorage along with his best regards to all. Also Fr. Tony Attea offers the Angola, N.Y. airport (near Retreat House) for a 1996 meeting.

5. MEXICO REPORT: Fr. Bob Kirsch informs us that a new Diocese has been erected for the TARAUMARA Indian Country and that Monsenor Jose Luis Dibildox Martinez has been ordained as the first Ordinary. The new Bishop has confirmed the use of the Cherokee Dakota 260, XB-ETB for the diocesan ministry (the plane of our member, the late Bishop Jose Alberto Llaguno Farias, S.J.) Fr. Jose Martin Del Campo, S.J. is the pilot and is in touch with Fr. Bob for support and additional training for night and IFR flying. Fr. Bob again expresses his gratitude for those of our members who have been financially assisting him, and, as retired,

he is now able to spend more lengthy periods of time in the ministry to the Indian Faithful of the Sierra Madre in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico.

6. HONORABLE MENTION: Due appreciation was expressed to Amelia Reid, pioneer pilot who spoke to us on Monday evening; to Fr. Gene Boyle, our Wednesday evening speaker for a most interesting presentation of the history of the Vallombrosa Retreat House and of his early flying with Cesar Chavez and Migrant Ministry. Fr. Ray Radzieta was expressly honored for his 31 years as a Charter member and prayers for his well-being and happiness were offered at our Eucharistic Celebration. We deeply regret that his poor health prevented his being with us. Among visitors acknowledged were: Sister Dee Myers, Fr. Bernie Bush, S.J., Fr. Paul Baseford, Vicenta Saavedra (Associate member Edwina Tabares' cousin), Desi Rae Tabares (Edwina's daughter), Joe Viera, Fr. Joe Halloran, faithful Bill Brown, Fr. Emery Twang, O.F.M., Fr. Dino Laurenzetti and Marty Winnert.

7. ELECTIONS: For First Vice-President: Fr. Frank Nemmers nominated, Fr. Pete Sweeney. MOTION: Fr. Tony Attea/Fr. John Herzog: THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED: unanimous. For Treasurer: Fr. Jack Dompka nominated Fr. Ev Hemann. MOTION: Fr. John Hemann/George Gratton: THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED: unanimous. Congratulations and appreciation expressed to PETE and EV on their reelection and their continued and dedicated service!

8. DONATION: Discussion: Fr. Jim Falsey (Flying out of Nome, Alaska) was proposed as a possible donee. Fr. Jim

Kelley out of Dillingham, Alaska was brought up again (had also been proposed in 1993, but there were not sufficient funds at the time). Fr. Jim is flying about 2,000 mi./mo. with several hundred hours/year; many parishes covering a very large area. MOTION: Fr. Bob Kirsch/Fr. Ev Hemann: THAT \$500 EACH BE GIVEN TO BOTH FR. JIM FALSEY AND FR. JIM KELLEY FOR A TOTAL YEAR'S DONATION OF \$1,000.00: Passed unanimously. (Fr. Jim Kelley also shared an excellent video with us on his flying ministry on Wednesday evening).

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (at 5:50 P.M.) Fr. Tony Attea/Fr. Bill Roche: THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED: Unanimous passage.

Con todo respecto y carino sometido.

Roberto

Fr. Bob J. Kirsch, Secretario

1994 NAPP CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



