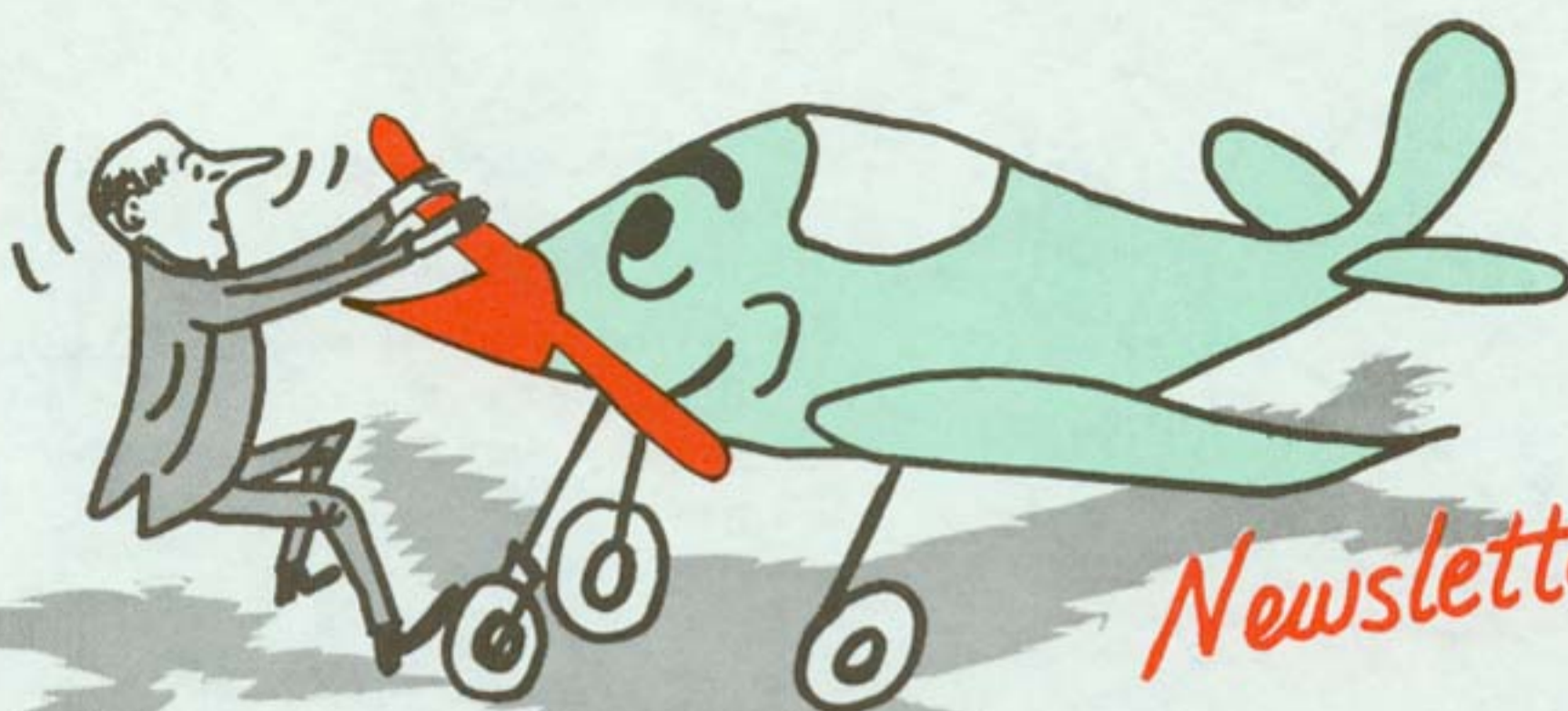


N.A.P.P.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Any resemblance between your president and the former N.A.P.P. president has to be purely coincidental! The picture mix-up in the last N.A.P.P. Newsletter has, however, inspired me to give serious consideration to a hairpiece. (Maybe that's the secret to the youthful appearance of Frank Nemmers - ??).

Good VFR days have been somewhat at a premium here in Iowa this winter. The snow and the below zero weather challenges even the Tanis heaters attempting to warm aircraft engines. It

makes us long for the days of spring and summer when the days are longer and the flights are too.

The FAA is hosting a couple of Accident Prevention Programs in early March in Iowa, as they do throughout the nation, for pilots. Capt. Al Haynes, the pilot of United Flight 232 that made Sioux City famous in July 1989, will be a featured speaker. Sounds like an attractive program! Can't learn too much about keeping those birds safely in the air.

As we prepare for the wondrous beauty and joy of the Easter - Pentecost events, let us not fail to remember one another -- and all of our brothers and sisters in ministry -- in our prayers.

Peace,

Tom Geelan



I suppose the first order of business is to try and explain the presidential picture mix-up in the last issue. The printer keeps the presidential master-piece on file and inserts it in the proper place each time. Little did I know they had neglected to relegate the portrait of ex-president Nemmers to its fitting and proper place of repose. Obviously, he mistakenly grabbed the wrong one. Be assured, O great and glorious leader Tom, it shall not happen again. I personally placed Frank's picture in the circular file...never to confuse the issue again.

THE ANNUAL DUES. Those of you who have paid your dues should have your membership card enclosed with this NEWSLETTER. The rest of you will find another "dues reminder." Please try to get that in as soon as possible. If you do not have the means to pay, sign up anyway.

Some members are generous and add that little something extra to help out. We thank those who do that!

Al Werth will host the **Midwest Spring Regional** meeting in Salina, Kansas on Monday, April 25. Details are found elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER.

Bill Roche will host the ANNUAL CONVENTION in the San Francisco Bay area next July. The dates are JULY 12 and 13. By the next issue I will have received from Bill convention highlights and other pertinent information. The important thing now is to get the dates on the calendar.

Quite a number of you included some interesting and newsy information with your dues. We'll share those writings in **BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE** as space allows.

My concluding thought: The Olympic women's figure skating ended today. I wonder what the next "earth-shaking event" in this Country will be? We had the Bobbits for months. Then Nancy & Tonya. What catastrophe lurks beyond yonder horizon to capture and fixate us the remainder of Lent?

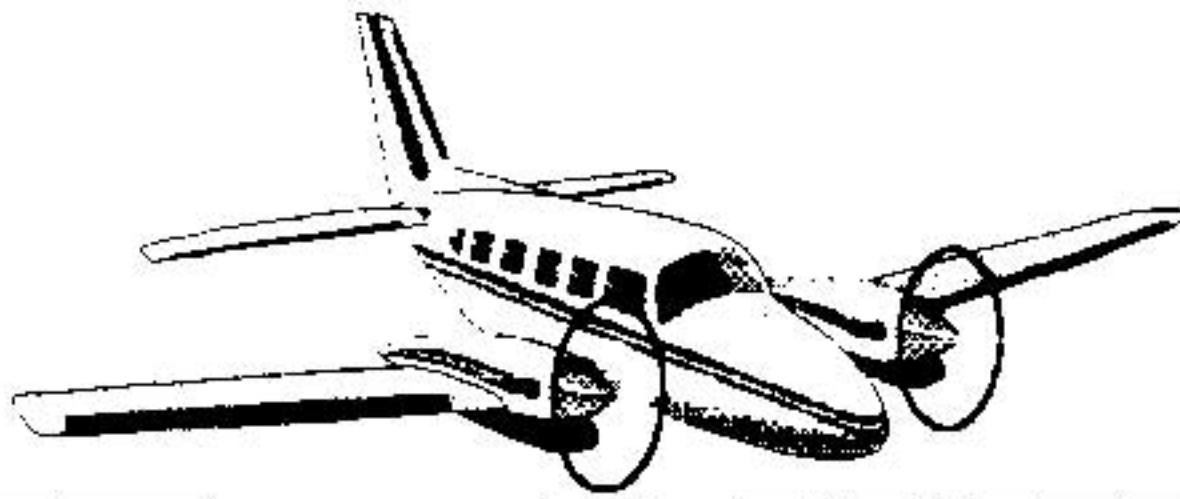
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BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

BILL TRAVERS. American Embassy. Bonn, Germany
CHRISTMAS 1993

A happy and a holy Christmas to you! Grusses aus Bonn! What a wonderful year 1993 has been! The 3 parishes I take care of - St. Thomas More in Bonn... St. Teresa in Norvenich and St. Mary in Buchel are doing so well. I turned 75 on 10 March 1993 and am still going strong... I can even prove it: I had my annual physical and came up with a B/P of 130/85... no problems with heart, lungs, etc... I lost 40 pounds over the last two years - no problem... just diet! I am now down to 220. The hair is still white, but it is still there... I should go out on tour for the medics!

This has been a travelling year... in early June I flew to Chicago for 4 days for our Carmelite Provincial Chapter... on 17 June I flew to Uganda to visit our sister parish of Kadore... a week there and had a wonderful time. I took 2 of our young ladies from our parish CYO with me... I don't know who were more impressed - the girls to see the Ugandan people or the Ugandans to see the girls, especially when they danced in Ugandan style. Then on 9 July I flew to San Francisco and parts thereabouts for some Air Force business and back to Bonn. Early in October I drove to Furstenfeldbruck and Munich for the 40th anniversary of the founding of our Air Force Wing - the 7330th - we have had an annual reunion every year since 1958... every 5 years we come back to Fursty where we are all honorable and honorary citizens of Fursty and Bavaria.

The world still has its trouble spots... Bosnia,

Somalia, etc... and I have my own ideas of how to stop them... let me not get into that! I also pray that the spirit of Christmas and the Baby of Bethlehem will sink into the lives of those who are committing these atrocities, especially against women and children.

Some more personal news... as you know, I first came to Bonn in 1978 and planned to stay here as pastor for only 3 years... well, it has turned into 15 years... and as you might have guessed - I signed up for 3 more years... primarily that I might celebrate the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on 3 February 1995 together with my parish families here in Bonn, Norvenich and Buchel.

Things aren't going too well here in Germany - the economy is going down - the unemployment is up and then we have the scandal of the contaminated blood supply.

In June 1994 we are looking forward to the visit of Fr. Vincent, the pastor of Kakore Parish in Uganda. He and Mary Bitariho, the lady who took such fine care of our 2 girls when they were there last June, are coming to visit Bonn... he will celebrate some Masses for us and I am sending them to Rome for a week... they come back to Bonn and I will drive them to Brussels to take the Sabena flight back to Entebbe airport in Uganda.

I hope to take a vacation in the USA in July and as always, I will fly to various sites in the US. And so, may I wish you and yours a happy and holy Christmas.

[Bill includes the following addenda]

Dear Mel,

Grussen aus Bonn! Just a cheery (I hope) note to thank you for all the fine work you do for us in NAPP. All the news is on the other side. We did have last week the grandfather of all floods here in Europe, especially in Germany...Koblenz, Bonn and Cologne downtown sections were completely flooded...in Bonn, our US Embassy which is right on the banks of the Rhine was closed down for 4 days...many of our people had to live in hotels for that time. Worst flood, they say, in 72 years. I don't know whether the Mississippi floods were worse than these.

Needless to say, with Christmas and Sunday coming together, it was a hectic time for me...I celebrated 9 Masses in the 3 parishes I serve. Then New Year's and Sunday come up again this weekend. I will be glad when the season is all over.

Stay well and God bless - best wishes to all the NAPPers.

*Bill Gutz -
Bill*

From Jerry Schmeltz, (AKA Brother Julius)

Merry Christmas with all associated blessings of the season to all NAPPers.

I had a great visit with Dick Skriba in Chicago last August. He is making more of his retirement than am I I'm still instructing at the FAA Academy - about 10 months worth last year. '94 may change drastically. But that's OK. All the best.

From Everett Hiller, Warren, Illinois to his name-sake and NAPP treasurer.

Dear Ev,

How does it feel to be a pastor of a college church? I'm sure it fits you better than a chancery

office and college rector.

Saw the article on Mel being a busy pastor. His health must be very good. I understand he's flying again.

I'm still teaching a lot but the travel arrangements do not work out so I can fly my plane as much as I would like.

Hope you had a blessed Christmas and may your New Year be filled with many blessings from the Lord.

God bless you always.

Ev

John MacGillivray writes from Nova Scotia

I hope to be at Oshkosh '94 July/August. Any priests, pilots or otherwise, attending and wishing to concelebrate at the Masses for campers at the "Theatre in the Woods" are welcome to do so. Bringalbs and stois. Mass Saturday night 6:30: Sunday 9:00 AM. We had 5 concelebrating at last year's Fly-in. I spend most of my time at "Convention H.Q." near the control tower.

Cheers

John MacGillivray

From Bishop Tommy Lobsinger



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Dec. 31, 1993

All the best for the new year!

Tom