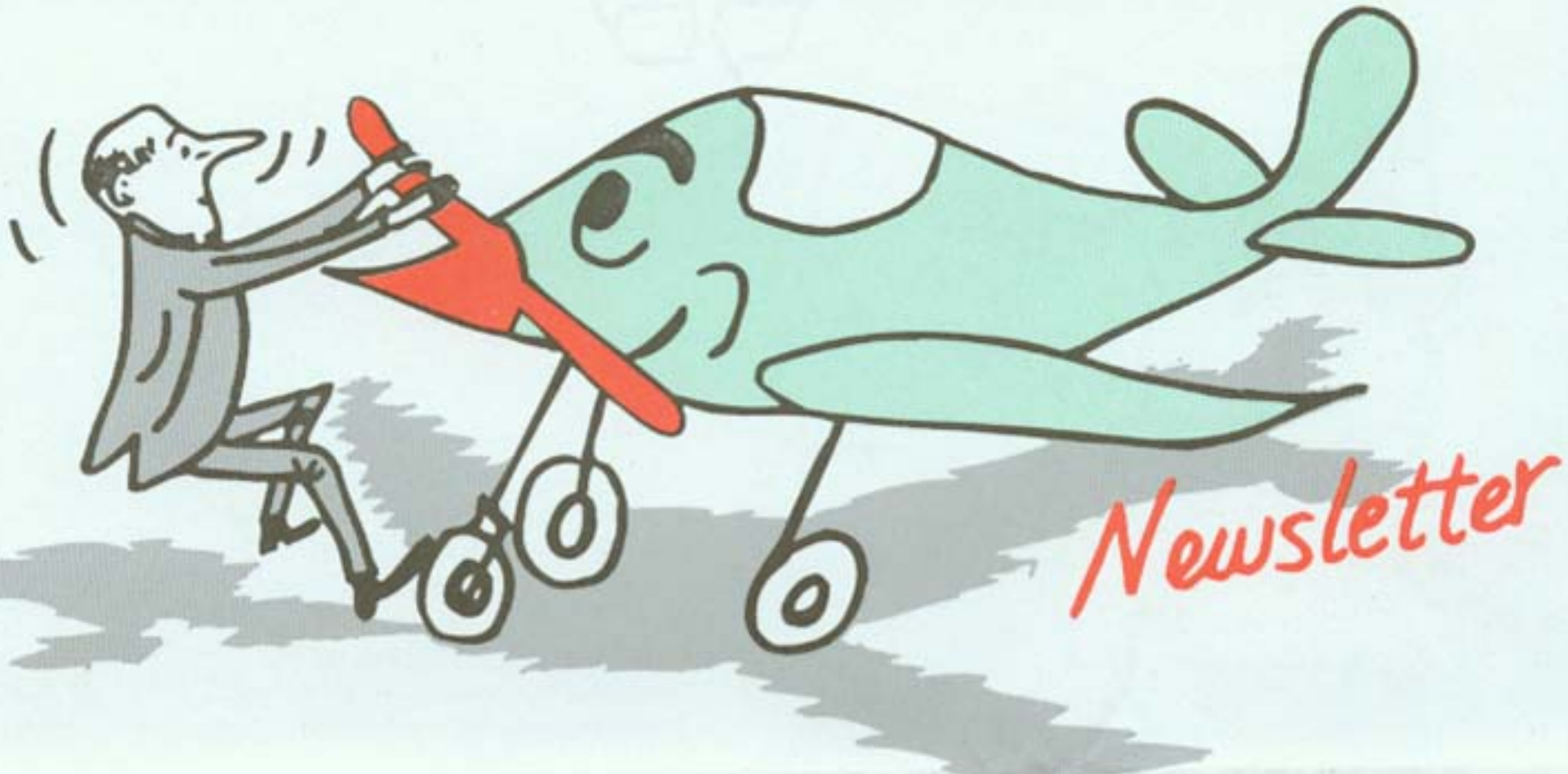


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXXVII FEBRUARY 2000 NO. 4



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I haven't heard from anyone recently. I hope all is well with the members. I hope Father Tom Geelan is making a good recovery. How are you Tom?

I see in the newspaper this morning Alaska is hit with severe avalanches. The Associated Press reports--"The worst avalanches to hit Alaska in decades have closed the Kenai Peninsula with Anchorage and the rest of the state leaving thousands of residents and travelers stranded for a fourth day." I assume it doesn't keep Fr. Jim Kelley from getting to his parishes with his plane. Here in northwest Kansas we haven't hardly seen snow this year. With the split jet stream the storms have been tracking to the north and south.

How about Lent and Easter being so late this year? Can't complain about being rushed in planning Lenten activities and devotions.

Last summer I had a Precise Flight standby

vacuum system installed. Now an AD has been issued which requires repetitive inspections estimated by the FAA to cost \$180.00 Bad news!

Heard this going into Salina.

Pilot: "Salina tower, this is Piper 235 Delta with information Bravo, requesting landing instructions."

Tower: "35 Delta, say your position."

Pilot: "Over I-70."

Tower: "Sir, I-70 runs from Washington to California. Could you be a little more specific?"

Also this at Salina after a jet had just taken off.

Tower: "Cessna 6249Q, can you take an immediate takeoff when cleared?"

6249Q: "Affirmative, 49Q."

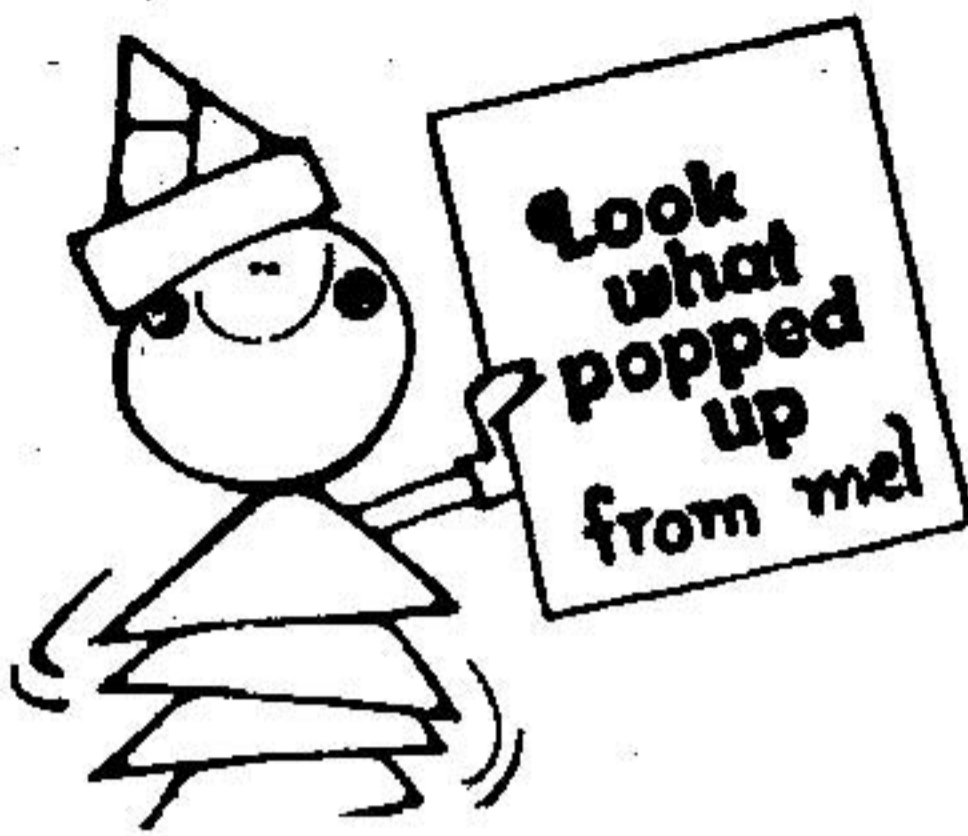
Tower: "49Q cleared for immediate takeoff. Caution wake tervulouse...caution...wake turbu...wak tercalu...(slow & deliberate) caution wake t-u-r-b-u-l-e-n-c-e departing Lear."

6249Q: "Roger, cleared for immediate and caution for all that hard-to-pronounce stuff."

Heard this on Denver Approach. A VFR pilot with poor and even worse radio technique, attempted to get himself cleared into Denver Class B airspace. After several attempts to identify himself and give position, a clearly agitated controller issued the pilot a transponder code of 1428. Pilot: "Ah...my transponder doesn't appear to have any eights in it." Den App: "Roger, remain clear of the Class B airspace."

Safe flying! See you in Anchorage this summer for our convention!

Al Werth



I don't know how many of you get Pat Patten's annual Christmas letter. I am including it in this issue for those of you who are not on Pat's mailing list.

Along with the newsletter this mailing also includes our annual directory. As we enter the new millennium we have 133 dues paying members. That number is significantly higher than we've had for quite a number of years. In addition to the 133 there are several complimentary organizations who've asked to be on our list. We also have some who find better use for their meager finances but want to retain their NAPP membership. Some of you have been very generous in covering most of those memberships with your added donations.

On their behalf we thank you for your kindness.

I just received an email from Carl Subler, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Carl has his private license and about 80 hours. He will graduate this May with his B.A. in Philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He will go on to theology at Mount Saint Mary's in Cincinnati. Carl is 24 years old, and spent four years in the

Navy as an operations specialist (radar and navigation) aboard a guided missile cruiser, prior to entering the seminary.

I told him about our Alaska convention and he responded with "I'd love to make the meeting in Anchorage, but I don't know if I can. I was just in Alaska over Christmas break. I stayed with Father Michael Nash in Juneau, and I met Bishop Kaniecki in Fairbanks." He also said he's going to talk to his vocation director who is taking flying lessons now. Welcome to our group Carl.

In my on-going endeavors not to rust out in retirement, and at the urging of the local FBO, I have begun the process of getting a designated pilot examiner license. I recently passed the knowledge test. Upon review in OKE City the following steps take place: 1. my name will be placed in the national examiner pool, 2. a need must surface from the local FSDO (I've got that base covered), 3. an invitation to attend the 5 day orientation in Oke City, 4. approval and check ride with one of the FSDO people. Hopefully before year's end I'll be authorized to issue private, commercial and instrument single engine licenses. Does any one know of a priest ever being named an examiner?

REMINDERS

May 8, 2000 - Midwest Regional
Pella, Iowa

Reservation sheet in enclosed

July 12-13, 2000 - 37th Annual
Meeting

Anchorage, Alaska

See update info in BRIEFS section

Fr. Denis Kitenge, the 1999 NAPP recipient of our annual gift, informs me that he is just about ready to take his IFR check ride. He continues to work as an A&P at the Clearwater airport, awaiting his return to the Republic of the Congo.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



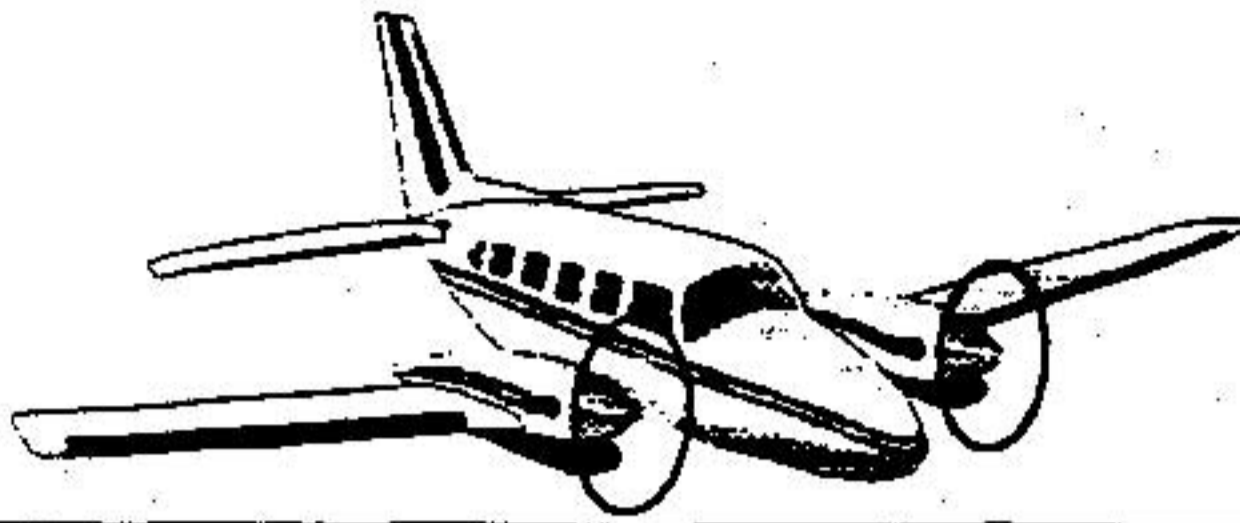
REV. MEL HEMANN

127 Kaspand Place

Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683

319-266-3889

Email: DBQMHEMANN@impresso.com



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

Fr. Tony Gendusa, MSC writes:

Dear Mel,

Ok, here is my \$20.00. I had a mini stroke - only left hand fingers tingle, that's all! So I twiddle my left hand fingers - and no more hold the stick. But for 10 years I did have the stick and did take care of my Manga Siar people in Papua New Guinea. From New Ireland and Anir Island there I pointed to Los Angeles 8000 miles away...the next land fall! Really! Anir (Feni) Island...and all that time St. Joseph of Cupertino never left me. Glad he held the stick...but the "do re mi" for 3 year maintenance just blew me away. Imagine 24 grand for maintenance for that 206. Oh well we did some work with it "mirabile visu!"

Also two folks "Jerri Mock and Bob Hope" had taken me in hand to get her 206 and the benefit Bob Hope did for us on the day the man stepped on the moon. So I can say Deo Gratias. Join with me in thanksgiving!

Fr. Tony Gendusa

Editor's Note: Tony's note this year came from Sacred Heart Monastery in Aurora, Illinois

Fr. Tom Gillespie, Collegeville, MN

I can't always afford to pay my dues but I appreciate you keeping me on the list. I still fly a Champ and a 182 from time to time, keeping up my ratings.

Tom Gillespie

Frank Nemmers writes from Onawa, IA

Mel,

Enclosed find *GLOBE* (Sioux City diocesan paper) article on Tom Geelan (& you) before Tom's operation. He is living with Dick Remmes (Marcus, IA) and says he should be much better in several months. His ear, eyesight & right side!!

I still haven't seen the RV-6 in operation. I think it is 30K faster than an old Mooney. Congratulations.

Frank N.

P.S. The 30th (?) annual to Bahamas & Florida went well: golf, bridge, ocean, food and drink. A ten-day stay in Rectory(s) and help on weekend. They even have an extra car.

Editor's Note: Tom has promised me the original picture of his F-16 flight last Fall. When we get that we'll publish it along with the above mentioned article.

Some filler material from Frank Nemmers

* If God had meant man to fly, He'd have given him more money.

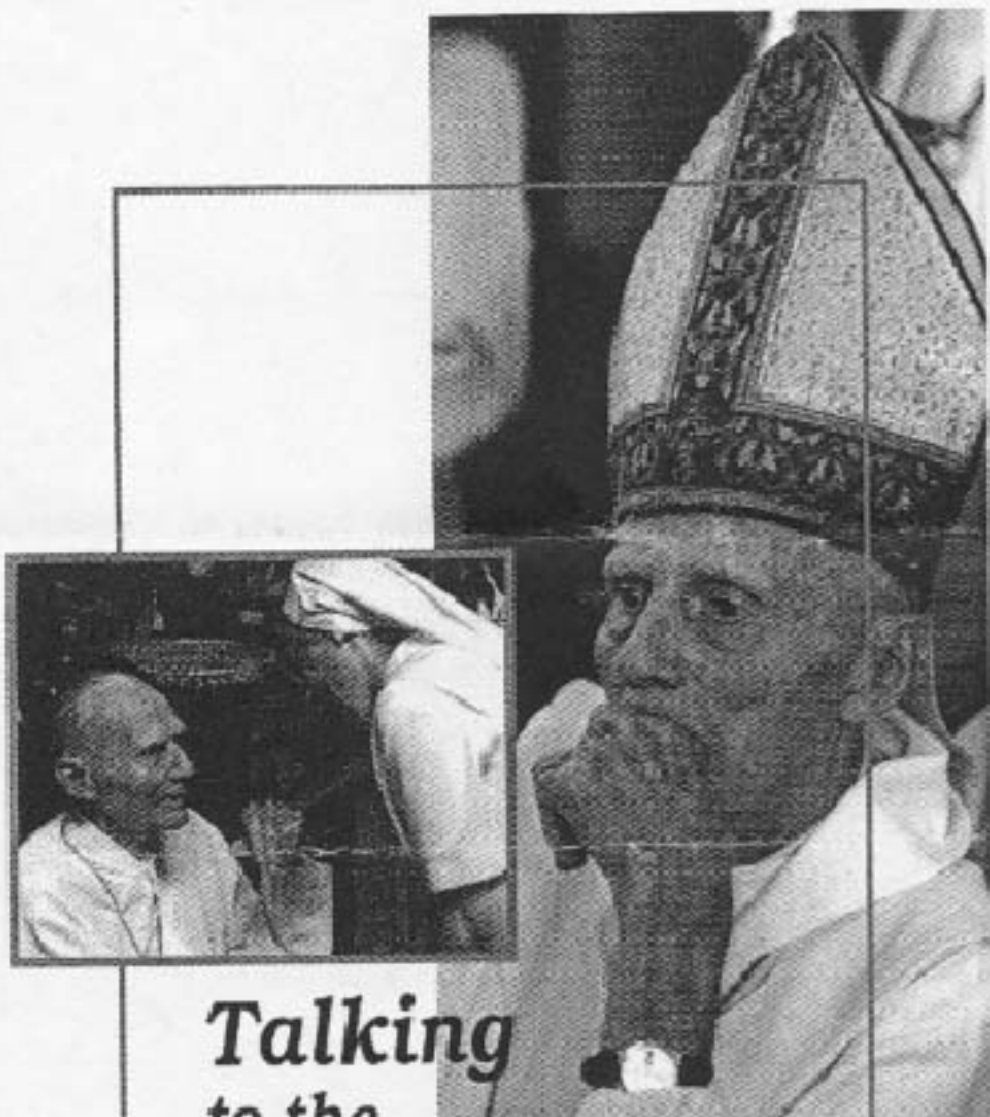
* If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger, if you pull the stick back they get smaller (unless you keep pulling the stick back - then they get bigger again).

* Flying is not dangerous. Crashing is dangerous
* The propeller is just a big fan in the front of the plane to keep the pilot cool. Want proof? Make it stop; then watch the pilot break out into a sweat.

* Speed is life, altitude is life insurance. No one has ever collided with the sky.

* It's best to keep the pointed end going forward as much as possible

John Hemann clipped the following from the Divine Word "Millennium" magazine edition. The Archbishop was a NAPP charter member and died last summer in Papua



Talking to the Archbishop

"I visited the Archbishop (Leo Arkfeld, SVD) a day or so before he passed away, and there he was sitting up in bed playing his mouth organ...One very interesting thing is that ever since he was buried, there are people visiting the grave every day. It seems to have become a place of pilgrimage. But what I find amazing is how so many people stand beside the grave and converse with him as though they were sitting in chairs talking—not always asking, but telling about what has been happening in their family life, etc. It makes one feel like an intruder on a private conversation."

*Sr. Dominique, SSpS
Papua New Guinea*

REMINDER

**July 12-13, 2000 - 37th Annual
NAPP Convention**

Anchorage, Alaska



Fr. Jim Kelley is shown above in deep and profound concentration as he awaits his appointment with Archbishop Hurley to finalize plans for the 2000 NAPP convention in Anchorage.

The details still in the decision making process will begin appearing in the next and following issues.

*Meanwhile
put the dates surrounding July 12 & 13
on your calendar so you won't miss
this exceptional event.*



Christmas 1999

"So who are you to me:
acquaintance, friend, or enemy?"

The hyena watched the 11-year-old girl and her aunt carrying buckets of water on their heads. He had watched them before, and many others like them. Why was he so angry today? What was wrong with his mouth, his stomach, his head? The world had never looked the same since he got bitten a few days back by that crazy fox. "My throat," realized the hyena, "is so dry; but today I hate the sight or even the thought of water."

Some water trickled out the top of Sinonit's bucket onto the side of her face. She smiled... "So cool," she thought, "in the hot sunlight." Suddenly the weight of the hyena was on her, crushing her jaw, breaking every bone in her head. Her aunt dropped her own bucket and tried to pull the hyena away from Sinonit. What was going on? Hyenas don't attack people in broad daylight! The thought was not finished before the hyena jumped on her, too, ripping into her shoulder.

The warrior ran, leg muscles almost tearing to make him race faster. At the same time he aimed at the twisted bodies, fur and human flesh struggling and intertwined. With practiced eyes and arm connected by panic to a brain set on edge by adrenaline, he let his spear fly with full force.

"What is wrong? So full of hurt. So hard to breathe. This new taste in my mouth. Red everywhere." So thought both the hyena and Sinonit. The next two breaths were the hyena's last, a spear through lung and heart. But Sinonit kept breathing. She tried to cry. What is wrong? Eyes don't see; my mouth, my face, my head, they hurt so much.

Three doctors, Wolf, Nicolas, and Gerard, all with long surgical experience in Africa, both in peace and in war, were horrified at what the Maasai warrior brought to them: Sinonit's still struggling tiny body so horribly disfigured by the bites of the rabid hyena. One doctor prayed that Sinonit would die quickly to be out of her pain. Her head was so disfigured, her throat so damaged, she couldn't possibly survive. But she did. She tried to cry. She struggled with death, with life.

I was flying 140 miles south of Wasso hospital when Wolf, the doctor in charge, called urgently on the radio. "Please come as fast as you can. We have a little girl badly injured by a hyena. She'll die if we don't get her to a major hospital quickly."

That was the 12th of November. I flew her, head totally wrapped up, breathing tube in place, pulse racing, across the border of Kenya and Tanzania, to Nairobi. She was on the operating table at 5 PM and the surgeons worked till 2 o'clock in the morning. She's now walking around, able to talk with some pain, sight in one eye, awaiting two more major operations to reconstruct her jaw and skull with titanium plates, and hopefully restore sight to the other eye. The doctors hope she will be released and ready to go home on Christmas Eve, seeing, walking, and talking. What a nice Christmas present to a family.

Of course, she is the million shilling girl. The expenses of such an operation are enormous, and you can imagine that a family of Maasai herders don't have hospitalization insurance.

People have been pulling together, offering support, from the president of one of our East African countries, to complete strangers. It's of course what should happen in a world where Christmas makes sense.

And other good news: after the loss of one of our aircraft last year and the resulting deaths of three people going to work at the same Wasso hospital where Sinonit was first seen, Flying Medical Service expects our replacement aircraft to arrive in January, again with the help of so many people.

With only one aircraft, Flying Medical Service did 68 emergency flights this year, and treated and vaccinated 15,112 people, an average of 41 patients a day.

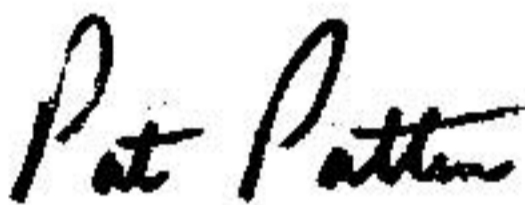
Our technical center for the physically handicapped is training a new group of 30 more men and women.

The rains have come; the fields are green; there should be plenty of food this year.

I am happy, and well, and loving living here.

I hope it is the same with you, wherever you might find yourselves.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Millenium.



Pat Patten

Flying Medical Service
Oikokola Catholic Mission and
Oikokola Technical Training Center
for the Physically Handicapped

Pat Patten
P.O. Box 508
Arusha, Tanzania
East Africa
Phone: 255-57-8583 or 255-811-653953

-- or --

c/o 1758 Manchester
G.P. Woods
Michigan 48236
United States of America
Phone: 313-881-8787

PLEASE NOTE

**Included in your packet are
two NAPP informational brochures.**

**The intent is that you pass this
information on to prospective
NAPP members.**

**We all know there are other
priest pilots “out there.”**

**The brochure will give them the
opportunity to join us.**

PLEASE:

**Do not return this with your
annual dues. That will follow
in July.**

**This is merely for informational
purposes to new members.**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS
2000 Midwest Regional - May 8, 2000
Pella Municipal Airport -- Pella, IA**

Contact Person and Host:

Bob Gruss
St. Mary's Church
1104 Peace Street
Pella, IA 50219
515-628-4262 (rectory)
515-628-3078 (church)



**Try to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30
A.M. on Monday, May 8, 2000**

**MEALS: Bob will arrange a
Noon Luncheon
and a wonderful
Dinner before Departure
at an exotic place to be announced**

Airport: Pella Municipal

1 mile west of the city

Identifier: **PEA**

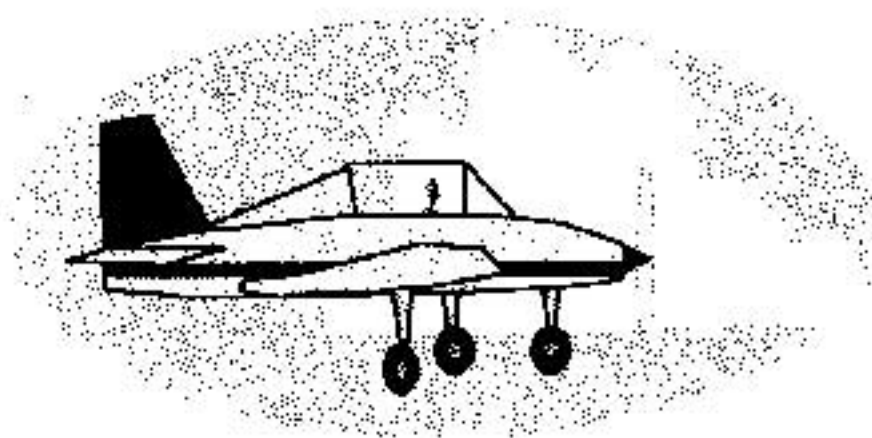
4000 ft runway 16-34

Com freq: APP Des Moines /123.9

UNICOM/CTAF 122.8

FSS: Fort Dodge 122.65

Airport Phone: 515-628-9393



SPECIAL ATTRACTION

**Pella is a community settled by the Dutch and
features an annual Dutch tulip festival.**

We will arrive before the annual weekend festival allowing us to view
and smell the tulips in the peace, quiet and solitude that precedes
the arrival of thousands a few days later

If you want to come early or stay late please let Bob know before arrival

RESERVATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

ETA _____

ETD _____

PLANE **Number** _____

CAR

MAIL TO:

Bob Gruss
St. Mary Rectory
1104 Pierce Street
Pella, IA 50219

**SEE YOU
THERE**

SPECIAL NOTICE

As I was putting the finishing touches on the 2000 edition of the directory I came across Msgr. Robert Sennott's name. Many of you remember Bob as our 2nd president, the man who authored our constitution and a very faithful NAPP member and convention goer through the years. The last report I had on Bob was from Fr. Jack Lawler's niece at the time of his death. At that time she told me Bob was slipping mentally. His newsletter never came back so I figured he must still be a resident at the retirement home for the Boston priests.

This afternoon, Feb. 22, I picked up the phone and called the home. I identified myself to the Sister who answered and asked about Bob. "Oh my! We are waking him this afternoon." She went on to say that Bob was taken to the hospital about 2 weeks ago and died suddenly on Saturday morning.

Bob is to be waked on Wednesday, February 23 in the church in Norwood where he served so many years. His funeral will be on Thursday morning in the same church.

Bob, may you rest in peace.

.....

My goal was to have the newsletter and directory in the printer's office this morning. I got caught up on a few minor items and wasn't able to make that deadline. Fortunately that goal of mine didn't happen because, not only did I hear of Bob Sennott's death, but today's mail also brought the following letter from Archbishop Hurley's secretary, Joann White. Just in time to get the July convention news in this issue.

From **Archbishop Hurley**

February 18, 2000

Dear Father Hemann,

Fr. Jim Kelley was in town and asked that the enclosed be typed and faxed to you. I couldn't find a fax number listed in the NAPP directory and I couldn't reach you by phone -- so I'm just going to mail this to you, hoping it will reach you in time to go into the next newsletter.

We'll be happy to have you all here again.

Before that July event we have two others coming up: Jubilee 2000 on April 30, a diocese-wide Mass and confirmation; and before that, on March 24, the Welcome for the Coadjutor who has been appointed to succeed Archbishop Hurley when he retires in two years.

His name is Roger L. Schwietz of Duluth. You'll meet him in July.

Hope all goes well with you. One of our best employees moved back to her home in Monticello, Iowa --- reluctantly, because she and her husband loved Alaska so much.

Joann White

**NAPP
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

JULY 12-13, 2000

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

HOLY SPIRIT CENTER
10980 HILLSIDE DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516
907-346-2343

ROOM RESERVATIONS

JOANN WHITE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
225 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
907/297-7766

SINGLE ROOM -- \$55.00 PER PERSON
SHARED ROOM -- \$40.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS IN BY 15TH JUNE

CONVENTION HOSTS:

ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS T. HURLEY
ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE
225 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
907/297-7766
907/279-3885(FAX)

REVEREND JAMES F. KELLEY
HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
PO Box 810
DILLINGHAM, AK 99576
907/842-5581

Return form to: Joann White, 225 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ETA(DATE) _____ TIME _____ ETD(DATE) _____ TIME _____

ROOM RESERVATIONS NEEDED: JULY _____ to JULY _____

ARRIVAL BY:

CAR _____

PLANE: MAKE _____ N _____ COMMERCIAL: AIRLINE & FLT: _____