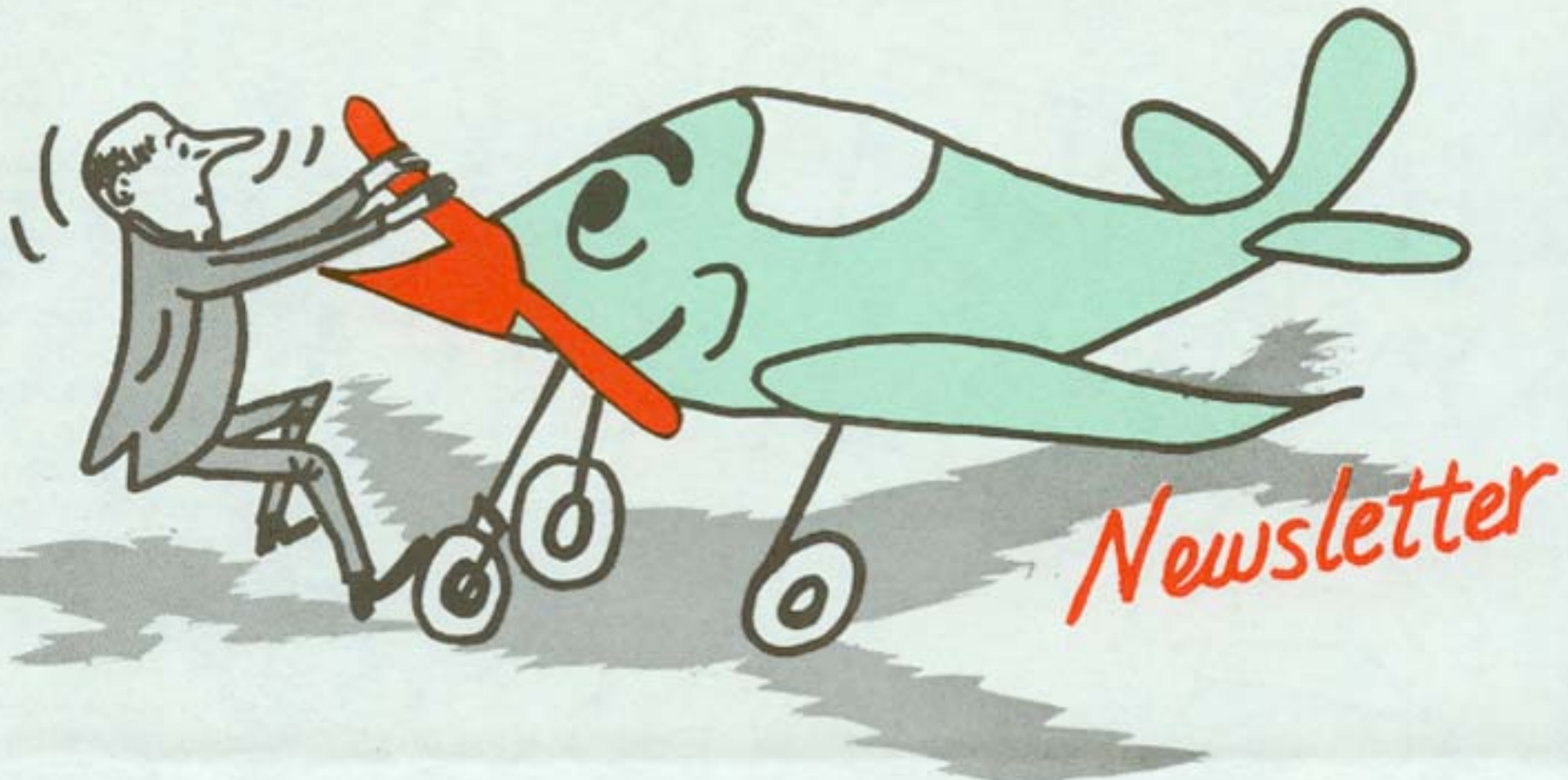


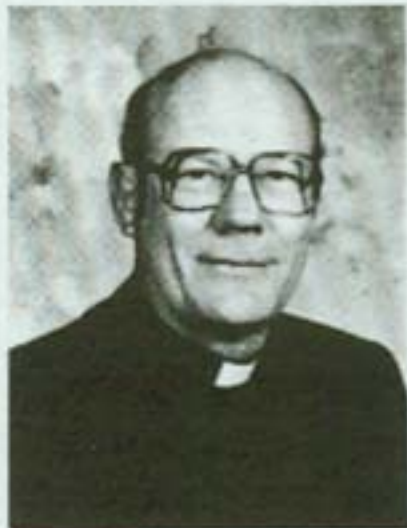
N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXXV

OCTOBER 1997

NO. 2



FROM THE PRESIDENT

That time of the year when we need to put our winter flying knowledge and skills to use has arrived. I was reminded of it watching the world series game in Cleveland last night.

I am sorry to hear of John Dompka's death. He attended our conventions regularly. I got to know him right off when I became a member in 1980. One of the priests of the Pittsburgh Diocese, Cyril Vogel, became our Bishop in the Salina Diocese in the 60s. John would always ask about him and sometimes would volunteer information about Bishop Vogel as a priest in the Pittsburgh Diocese. I will miss John.

I heard this on the air this summer after our convention, departing New Bern, North Carolina. A Warrior was ready to take off. I no longer recall the N number. Let's say it was Warrior 123 Uniform. The conversation went like this.

Warrior 123U: "Tower, Warrior 123 Uniform ready for takeoff."

Tower: "Warrior 123 Uniform, cleared for departure runway 22."

A few seconds later.

Tower: "Warrior 123 Uniform, do you realize you took off from the taxi way?"

Warrior 123U (after some hesitation): "Sorry! do you want me to come back and try it again?"

Tower: "Tower prefers that you not return."

Warrior 123U "Is there a time limit on that request?"

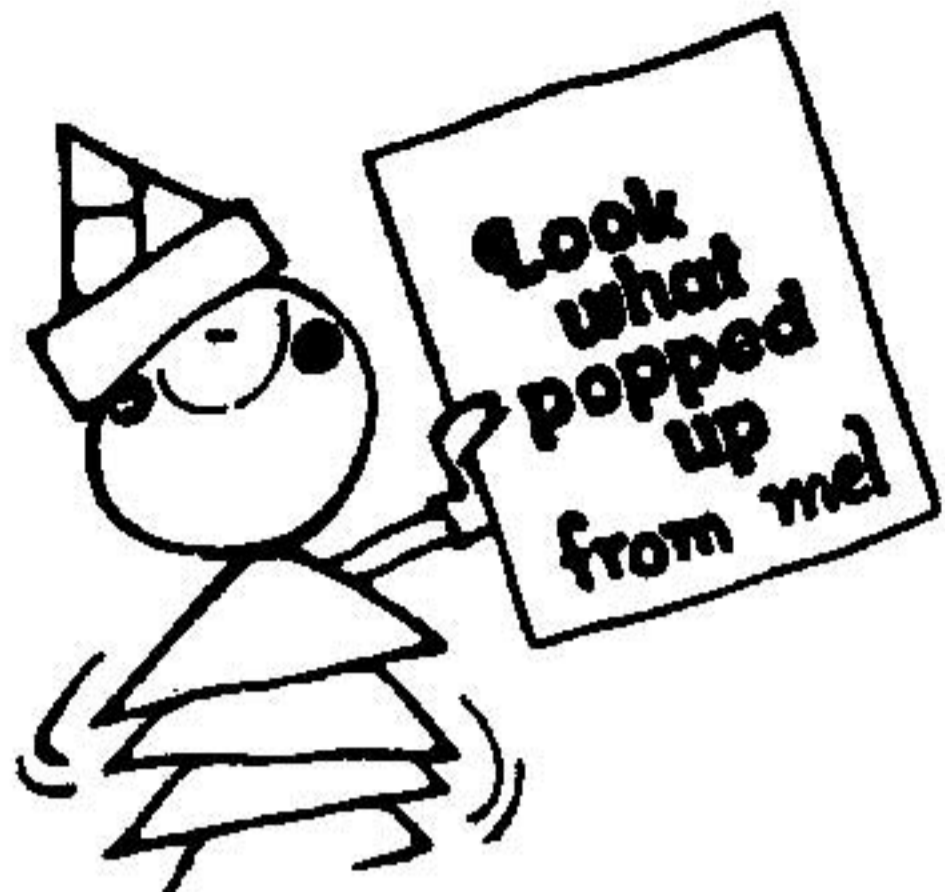
Tower: "No!"

By the way John Hemann, what is the N number for your Warrior?

Thanks, Ev Hemann, for hosting our fall regional meeting!

Peace and smooth flying!

Al Werth



It's been a while since we have one of our members take that final flight. Unfortunately that which must come to all of us at one time or another has made that final visit to four of our members.

When Msgr. Thomas W. Weinzapfel sent his dues he had a short note saying that his brother, Joseph J, died on May 1, 1996. Tom gave no particulars but I do know Leo had been in bad health for some time.

After the last newsletter a short note came from his Community in California saying, "Please take Fr. Bill Travers out of your computer. He died July 14, 1997 in Fairfield, CA." Bill was a regular contributor to this newsletter for many years, sharing his experiences at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany. Last year he retired at age 80 and hopefully enjoyed his final year of earthly life.

Msgr. Al Sigur died August 13 in Crowley, Louisiana. For years Al was in campus ministry at LSU. When I became one of the campus chaplains at Iowa State University in 1965 I spent 6 weeks in the summer of 1966 at the U

of Colorado in Boulder at a special school for campus ministers. Al was one of the instructors. Every afternoon while every one else went to the pool or the golf course Al and I went flying. Al hosted two conventions and was involved in a variety of ministries. For the past couple of years Al suffered from Alheimers disease. Homilist Bishop Jude Speyrer said, "He was a priest's priest, he was a happy man. He showed us the right stuff of the priesthood. He was the servant of the poor, the advocate of the downtrodden...He was a giant of the Church."

October 6 & 7 the Sioux City Iowa diocese ordained a Pittsburgh priest, Daniel DiNardo, Coadjutor Bishop. Present at the celebration was John (Jack) Dompka. It was nice visiting with him during those days. Three days later, shortly after midnight on October 10, Jack was dead. Apparently his long life of serving caught up with him and the Lord called him home.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these four as we assure them of our continued prayers.

We'll include the story of Ed Murray's plane this time. There are tidbits gleaned from member dues envelopes and news and shots about the Midwest gathering on a windy, enjoyable, informative Sept. 29th day in Ames

Remember the 1998 NAPP convention on Vancouver Island hosted by Tom O'Neill. As time goes on we'll share more. What is important now is that you remember to reserve July 7-8, 1998. The Midwest Spring gathering in Sioux City, Iowa is Monday, April 20, 1998. Charlie Teufel has a reflection on his association with Jack Dompka the past few months. I've put together some news John Bellon shared with me on the phone after visiting Jack Lawler, as well as a conversation with Jack's friend, following an accident on October 5.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



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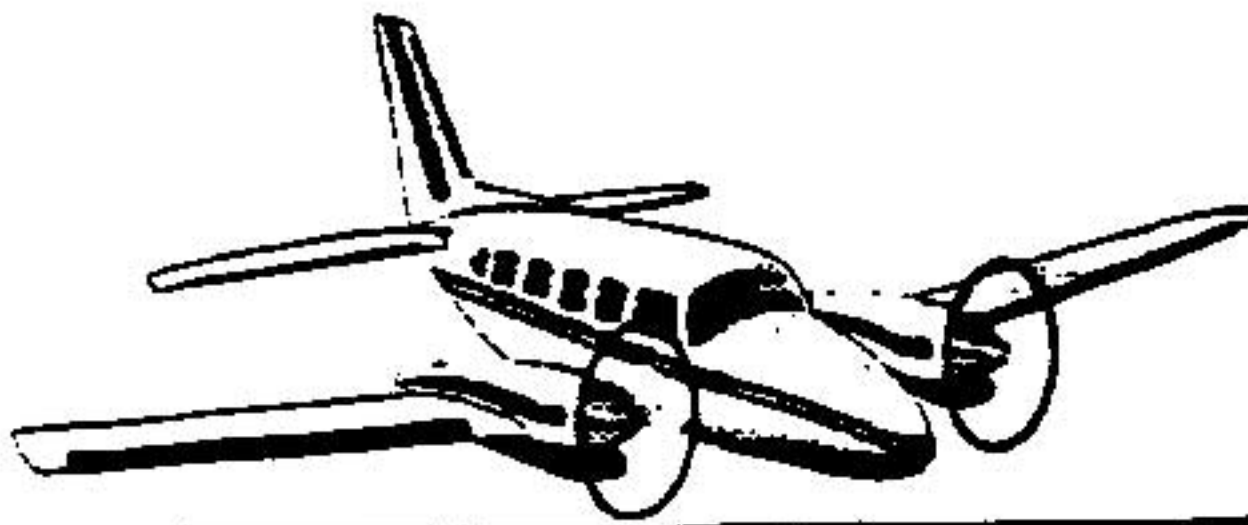
319-552-2233

SATURDAY'S STORM - JULY 29, 1997

Father Ed Murray of Whitemore, Iowa had his 1946 Piper Super Cruiser completely redone at the time of its annual earlier this year. Ed was planning on flying it to Oshkosh and decided there could be some damage done by the summer storms that periodically come up in the Midwest. Considering the fact he would be parked in the midst of thousands of planes Ed called Avemco and took out full coverage on the plane. Less than 24 hours later a tornado demolished the hangar that housed Ed's plane. When I talked to Ed a few days later he said, "I'm sick about it all. But if I didn't have that insurance check coming I'd really be sick." Ed wrote in mid-August, "I have been lonesome for my airplane, especially on nice, calm, cool Fall-type nights. But I am in the process of looking for another airplane to fly and will probably purchase another one as soon as my insurance money comes through. But by the time of the Fall Regional I should have another plane to fly - not as nice as I had but another plane."



A COUPLE PICTURES OF ED'S PLANE



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

Frank Weidinger from Camas, Washington writes,

Greetings, Mel! I enjoy keeping in touch with my flying priest brothers. I often think of the good times we had in our annual meetings.

My Parkinsons limits my activities. God bless all our members.

Frank & Family

Frank & Family

Tony Gendusa, Kavieng, New Guinea

Dear Mel,

Thanks for the NAPP news. I'm at Kavieng about 3 degrees south of the Equator. Formerly I was on a small island, Anir Rabaul address. Now on the tip of New Zealand. Kavieng is a small town. NO, NO one owns an airplane. I was the last one with the 206 & since then "nihil totaliter."! (circa 1980).

Yeah, from back in 1969 they always gave one lots of "FAA"..their type. So we saw how the old English ways came thru. Flying Elite only for billionaires - gas, maintenance, etc., etc., etc...did us all in. But for 10 years I had a great time & I still can smell the fresh bread. 100 loaves we haul from Rabaul to Manga many times. Also the times when the 206 was loaded like a freight train. Good St. Joseph of Cupertino watched over us always in spite of the many ups and downs. However we made it! Glory be to God.

Now we just hop the \$200.00 (now up to \$1060.00 for two of us Kavieng to Port Moresby back a year ago). Commercial is

alright. Today you need a huge pocket - be a trillionaire - if you wanted to go as before. Gasoline, oil, maintenance. WOW...an era has passed.

We are in our 2nd dry month - NO RAIN.
God's blessings

Tony Gendusa MSC

Tony Gendusa, MSC
(82 years ..me & Santa)

From a Montreal Press release

In a directory of Roman Catholic clergy, the Rev. Emmett Johns is listed as the chaplain for Montreal's itinerant. On the streets, he's known as "Pops."

The streets he roams are defined by black leather, torn denim, bizarre haircuts and pierced body parts. It's a world of drug and alcohol addiction, prostitution, hunger and hopelessness.

Twice a week the 69-year-old priest drives a dilapidated van through the city, stopping to offer hot dogs, coffee, clothing and friendship to homeless young people. Volunteers drive the van four other nights.

"I love him. He's like a father. He makes you feel really good about yourself," said Izzo, 22, who recently visited the van when it stopped on Ste. Catherine Street, east of Montreal's trendy downtown.

That praise comes from a young woman full of despair.

"I've been told I'm the scum of the earth and I've been spit on," Izzo said. "If I could choose right now whether to have been born, I would choose not to be born."

John is the founder of the help program Le

Bon Dieu Dans La Rue, which translates as the Good God on the Streets. More simply, it's called "Dans La Rue."

Johns founded the organization in 1988. He bought a van with a \$7,500 loan and made his first foray onto the street in early 1989. He and two volunteers fanned out, looking for kids. They had two visitors.

Now hundreds of young people visit the van every night.

Like troubled youths elsewhere, Montreal's street children are the refuse of broken families torn by drug or alcohol abuse, sex abuse and a lack of education. Most are from eastern Canada; a few come from the United States.

Dans La Rue's executive director, Marina Boulos, said a decade-old study estimated there were 5,000 street children in Montreal, a city of 1.1 million people. She said the number could have doubled since then.

Martine Millette, a police officer in charge of community relations in the downtown area where Dans La Rue operates, said police think highly of Johns.

"What he does, nobody else could do," Millette said. "The kids won't stop anywhere else, but they'll go to Pops on the streets."

John's has helped the police get along better with the young people. Two years ago he organized a baseball game between them and officers. The youths were apprehensive about playing against people they usually see as the enemy.

"At the end everybody said, 'Let's do it again,'" Millette said.

Johns said none of volunteers has had any serious trouble in high crime neighborhoods. Once a volunteer was threatened by a knife-wielding pimp who felt the volunteer was interfering with his prostitute.

"Two other pimps told him to put the knife away," Johns said.

"The underworld is made up of human beings," he added. "Some times they do things that are very obvious to everyone else as very bad. Other times they are very, very good."

While Johns is a priest, he doesn't proselytize. "I don't believe in shoving it down their throats," he added. "It's better to go slowly."

He won't perform weddings or other religious ceremonies for the youths he befriends. Instead, he refers them to a parish priest. "They become part of the community

there," Johns said.

Since its birth, Dans La Rue has expanded into a program with 17 full-time employees and an annual budget approaching \$1 million. The organization runs a shelter and drop-in center known as "Le Bunker," where a few youths can get a short-term bed and others a sandwich, a cup of coffee or companionship.

"Le Bunker" is in a row house about 10 blocks from downtown, decorated with posters warning about AIDS and hepatitis B. It serves thousands of young people a year.

By fall Dans La Rue hopes to open a day care center with an alternative school, a cafeteria, basic health care and mental health counseling.

There are failures. Some of the youths Johns works with are murdered, commit suicide or die of AIDS.

Successes can sometimes be found amid tragedy. Johns said he was called to a hospital to help police identify a girl who attempted suicide by jumping in front of a subway train. Doctors gave her little chance of surviving, but after a visit by Johns and dozens of her friends, she recovered, contacted her family and is now in rehabilitation.

In his 47 years as a priest, Johns has worked as chaplain to the police department (he also is a pistol instructor), in a mental hospital and at a Catholic high school.

Johns has learned to use the news media to his advantage and can get help when needed.

The city has changed laws for him such as revising housing regulations to enable Dans La Rue to receive a housing grant that is being used for the new day care center. Donors have shown up with checks or offers of real estate at crucial times.

"I am the dreamer in the gang," he said. "It's not just a one-man operation. There are volunteers en masse."

Dans La Rue is now expanding outside Montreal. It has started a program in Quebec City and some of his volunteers are planning visits to Central America to work with street children through another organization.

Through it all, Johns tries not to lose sight of the people he set out to help. And they don't forget him.

"If it wasn't for them I probably wouldn't be alive right now," said Junior, a 20-year old street person who spent much of his childhood in the custody of Quebec authorities.

"He brushes up my spirits."

FINAL FLIGHT

JACK LAWLER REPORT

A couple of Sunday's ago I was leisurely wasting time when the phone rang. It was Frank Nemmers calling to ask if I'd heard anything about Jack Lawler having an accident in Indiana. I hadn't but started contacting a couple NAPP members and found out it was true. The following is put together from a phone conversation with John Bellon, CSSR of Detroit, after a visit and a phone call tonight (10-26-97) to Jack's friends in Lafayette.

Jack was on one of his trips visiting friends. He called (10-5-97) from Akron, OH and asked the LAF friends to pick him up at the airport. For some reason Jack landed short and to one side of the runway centerline. No one knows the reason why. As is normal, the FAA has the plane under lock and key during the investigation.

Jack is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lafayette. John said he was treated extremely well during his visit and was very impressed with the care they are giving Jack. Jack was highly sedated, so between that and the tubes down his throat, he was unable to talk. However, in holding his left hand John said Jack would respond by squeezing his hand. They now have Jack on a ventilator.

John gave me the following about Jack's physical condition. He has a broken neck and they have him in a cervical collar, often called a halo. I'm sure you've seen them on patients during your visitation. Several vertebrae are broken in his back. His right foot/ankle is badly shattered and a number of pins are helping with that healing process and the doctors are certain they can save the foot.

In the talk with Tom Smith, he and his wife are the local friends, a few minutes ago he said yesterday Jack began bleeding internally. Surgery was done around noon today to repair a stress caused hernia. (Nothing unusual in cases such as this according to the doctors). Tom says he has taken quite a beating through all this and they consider themselves fortunate to still him with us. When he gets better he'll be flown to Boston for recuperation. Jack's address:

St Elizabeth Hospital; 1501 Hartford St;
PO Box 7501; Lafayette, IN 47903

God bless you Jack. We love you!

This past July, FR. JOHN A. (JACK) DOMPKA visited First Flight, Kitty Hawk, NC, where the Wright brothers made the first controlled powered level flight of an aircraft. On October 10, 1997, Jack made his "FINAL FLIGHT."

It began on Monday, October 6th, with a flight from Wheeling airport to Sioux City, IA, to take part in the presentation of the papal letter and the episcopal ordination of Rev. Daniel N. DiNardo, native priest of Pittsburgh, to become the coadjutor bishop of the Sioux City Diocese. On this celebrated occasion, Jack delightedly conversed with many happy people from Pittsburgh and elsewhere. He entered fully into the festivities and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

On Wednesday afternoon he arrived back home very, very fatigued from the flight. His condition worsened. He entered the hospital early Thursday. Despite the valiant efforts of six doctors, some minutes after midnight early Friday morning, he flew his "FINAL FLIGHT," and landed at St. Peter International Spaceport, Heaven. He was welcomed with tremendous applause, and millions of open arms.

His funeral at St. Margaret Mary Church, Pittsburgh, was a tremendous expression of faith and love. The liturgy, including the music, was superb. Up to 100 priests participated with auxiliary Bishop William J. Winter presiding and preaching. NAPP was represented by Bishop Jim Timlin; Frs. Tony Attea, Owen Shanley, Pete Sweeney, Charlie Teufel, and Knobby Walsh; and associate members Jack Boyle and Tony Facciolo. After the funeral many thoughts were shared at a very delicious luncheon. While all were so engaged, Jack was being checked out in his new wings by head instructor St. John the Evangelist (the "Eagle"), so that Jack could solo around Heaven.

Now we pray that Jack will properly stow his wings after each heavenly flight, that the OAA (Outerspace AA) will forgive any infractions Jack committed while he flew under FAA rules here, and that Jack will thoroughly enjoy supping at the Lord's table in His eternal kingdom. Save a place for us, Jack!

MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Ames, Iowa September 29, 1997

Some of the planes flown in by NAPP members for the gathering.



Pictured below is host, Fr. Everett Hemann, briefing some of the attendees on the events to follow the lunch. First stop was the VIRTUAL REALITY display at Iowa State University. One of the foremost examples of VIRTUAL REALITY usage in the Country we experienced traveling through a maze especially created for the room. Run by a series of exceptionally fast computers, the department is working with Toyota, Ford, John Deere and other corporations in the development of their products. Our next stop was EAI - Engineering Animation, Inc. EAI specializes in applying 3D visualization technology to meet the productivity, communication, education and entertainment needs of its clients through 3D visualization software, interactive multimedia and custom animation. Examples were shown of presentations prepared for litigations involved in accident suits. Particularly interesting were the illustrations of aircraft accidents actually happening put together from the information supplied by the FAA and NTSB. An interesting day!



Of course, it always ends with a wonderful meal and lots of hangar flying.



REMINDER

NAPP

1998 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Vancouver Island

British Columbia

Canada

Come and enjoy Canadian hospitality

REMINDER #2

SPRING

MIDWEST REGIONAL

Sioux City, Iowa

Monday,

April 20, 1998

*Come, enjoy the day,
and make plans to
travel in July to enjoy
the Canadian hospitality*