

Pilot sees planes as vital link in Third World

By Peter Wilson
of the Star-Phoenix

The sound of aircraft passing overhead is a rarity in Third World countries.

Guy Gervais, who has spent much of his life piloting supplies to and from remote jungle airstrips, feels many of the problems of those countries stem from lack of adequate, safe, and reliable transportation.

"In Zaire, a country the size of Quebec and Ontario with a population of 33 million, communications outside the two largest cities are virtually nil. The road service is extremely unreliable and, when you leave for a destination, even in a Land Rover, you are never sure when you are going to arrive."

Airplanes are a means of transportation and communication ideally suited to that type of country, says Gervais, 53, a pilot and aircraft mechanic.

He was in Saskatoon this week, spreading the word about Air Service Freedom, a new Canadian organization supplying airplanes and pilots to help people and communities in the Third World.

It has sent two Cessna six-seater planes and three pilots to Zaire, and hopes to raise enough money and support to send at least eight more, he said in an interview.

In the immediate future, it plans to construct and maintain landing strips in Zaire, and set up a radio communications network. Later on, Gervais said, other African nations will be included, as well as countries such as Indonesia and New Guinea.

The first Air Service Freedom plane started operating in March last year from Dungu, Zaire, cov-



Guy Gervais at a Saskatoon airport hangar

— S-P Photo by Peter Wilson

ering a circle of country 360 kilometres wide. This year, a second Cessna followed to Kinsangani, to serve a population of 60,000.

To get a broad cross-section of support, the organization has worked closely with volunteers, government, religious communities, aviation companies and service clubs in Canada. It is based on a 13-year-old American organization, Wings of Hope, for which Gervais flew in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.

Gervais, on a cross-Canada promotional tour, has organized with Mitchinson's Flying Club an aerial sight-seeing tour of Saskatoon's Christmas lights Dec. 18 and 19.

"Half the money raised will go to Air Service Freedom and towards our service in Zaire. People in Saskatoon will be able to share their Christmas celebrations with people in isolated villages in Zaire."

"Their gifts will be helping us deliver services that will provide

wells for drinkable water, transport doctors and nurses to the sick, improve farming methods, transport books and teachers to the bush schools, and support the missionaries."

He said the Canadian International Development Agency will triple the money raised.

Gervais has flown over 19,000 hours, much of it over remote areas and in many types of aircraft. Not all the experiences have been welcome.

He remembered ferrying a Wings of Hope aircraft from the United States to Peru when its fuel pump failed.

"It was over the Gulf of Mexico and I was running out of fuel. Luckily I was flying a sea-plane so the only course open to me was to look for a ship. I found a German cargo ship and brought my plane down in rough water. You have no idea how small you feel when you are bobbing about in a little plane, and 130 feet up is the

deck of the ship."

Although the aircraft was banging against the hull of the ship, both he and it were rescued and eventually taken to New Orleans.

The scare was worth it to Gervais, for the incident gave the organization much-needed publicity.

"Inside eight months, we had three aircraft donated to us. I guess we all have to suffer a little to achieve something worthwhile."

Power lines complicate garage fire

A garage fire complicated by crackling power lines kept Saskatoon firefighters busy Friday night.

The blaze at 417 Winnipeg St. South caused about \$15,000 damage to the garage and about another \$15,000 to four motorcycles and a van parked inside, said battalion Chief Tom Dunlap.

It began on the garage's roof

and was compounded by the house's power lines which melted and then fell to the ground, he said.

When water from the hoses touched the lines, it caused electrical pops.

"Every time they went off, we were kind of spooked," said Dunlap.

Mr. Steer
The
Out Riders Special
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday evenings
12 oz. Prime Rib of Beef
with vegetable and your choice
of potatoes, plus a trip to our
Salad Wagon
all for the price of
\$9.95
145-3rd Ave. North
653-5550

Sawyer's
MARK TWAIN HAS
HIS 150th BIRTHDAY
THIS WEEK
To celebrate this, we
are serving up
Twain's Platter of
Coho Salmon, Filet of
Sole, Seafood Crepes
with fresh Broccoli
and Cheese Sauce
with choice of
Potatoes and Salad.
For the Birthday
Price of
\$8.95
FOR RESERVATIONS
955-5400
8th St. & McKecher Dr.

FINAL DAY

OR
**1/2 PRICE
FOR CASH**
CALL NOW

THE FINEST IN HEALTH SPA FACILITIES AND
SERVICES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

- Aerobics
- Relaxing Whirlpool
- Modern Exercise Equipment
- Soothing Sauna
- Personalized Weight Programs
- And much more!

SPA fitness center

<p>EAST SPA 3501 8th St. East 373-5611</p>	<p>WEST SPA 2305 22nd St. West 384-5545</p>
--	---

FOR SALE
2 TOW
TRUCKS — FULLY
EQUIPPED
WITH CONTRACTS
**CAPTAIN
HOOK TOWING**
506 45th St. E. Saskatoon
933-4665 Stu or Ila

VERN ELDESTROM
See me indoors
at the
Wheatland A Building
Nov. 23-Dec. 7

**AUTO
CLEARING** '82 LTD.

MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

Discover How To Unlock Your Potential

Now, a psychological breakthrough you can use to unlock the power of your subconscious mind to achieve everything you really want in life.

In this exciting **FREE LECTURE**, you will learn how to:

★ Increase your income	★ Develop greater self-confidence
★ Improve your health	★ Get the job you want
★ Influence and lead others	★ Reduce stress and tension
★ Become totally self-motivated	★ Set and reach your goals

Learn Methods and Techniques Used by All High-Achieving Men and Women, Olympic Athletes and All Self-Made Millionaires.

Free Lecture

8:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1985 - HOLIDAY INN
8:00 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1985 - HOLIDAY INN

BRIAN TRACY
Brian Tracy, internationally acclaimed authority on the development of human potential and personal effectiveness; inspiring speaker, author/narrator of the best selling "Psychology of Achievement," trainer and consultant to major corporations — **IN PERSON!**

Decide now to attend this free lecture and join the thousands of men and women who are already using Brian's success system to achieve their goals and aspirations.