



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

GABEL, Thomas USA (1947-1995) (HB)
 See APPENDIX-BK (4)/BO (5). Sport & Professional balloonist.
 b: 14 Jan.1947 Morris, IL.
 d: 15 Feb.1995 Masai Mara Kenya.
 e: Cabrillo College; Western Illinois Univ.,BA (English)-1969.
 p: Carpenter/roofer for B.MURTORFF in 1970; Semi-Professional balloonist
 1972-85; Real estate adjuster.
 f: First B-Flight 1 Aug. 1969 with Derick Howard; First B-Solo Feb.1970 from
 Eureka, IL; Flight Instructor was Bill Murtorff; FAA B-License issued Jan.1971;
 More than 2200 B-Hours by 1987; 34 airplane pilot hours.
 l: 1972, Placed 9th in U.S.National HB-Races; 1972, Founded "Illinois B-
 School" (Eureka, IL); 1973, Winner of U.S.National Hot-Air B-Races; 1973,
 Founded "Balloon Loft" FAA Repair Station; 1977, Placed 7th in U.S.National
 HB-Races; 1979, Placed 5th in U.S.National HB-Races.
 h: Ashes dropped over Kenya by fellow balloonists.
 m: Balloon Federation of America. ***Epic flight ? Sep.1976 (solo) from
 Sieverville, TN. Crossed the Great Smoky Mountains, and landed at Mt.Rest,
 SC after a magnificent flight of 4 hours 30 minutes.
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 312/691-1185.
 r: Telcom Oct.87.