



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ebert Eecks

ABRUZZO, Benjamin L. USA (1930-1985) K (HB/GB)
 See APPENDIX-I/AB/AC/BF/BJ/BQ/BY. Sport balloonist; Aeronaut Extraordinaire.
 FIRST to cross the Atlantic Ocean by balloon.
 b: 9 June 1930, Rockford, IL;
 d: 10 Feb.1985 Albuquerque, NM; Died in an airplane crash. Father of balloonist Richard.
 s: Officer in U.S. Air Force, 1952-56.
 e: Univ. of Illinois, BBA-1952, Business Administration.
 p: President of Real-Estate Conglomerate.
 f: First B-Flight 1970 with Sid Cutter in Albuquerque, NM; First B-Solo 1970; FAA B-License #1242906 issued 1970; also pilot of airplanes, helicopters and gliders; Over 950 B-Hours (500 in gas) by 1985.
 m: Member of BFA.
 h: Gold Medal Achievement Award, Congress of the USA; FAA Achievement Award; Grande Medal of France; John Oliver la Gorce gold Medal; Montgolfier Diploma; FAI Gold Air Medal; De la Vaulx Medal; French Sports Medal; LTAS Achievement Award.
 l: 1977, First Trans Atlantic attempt aborted near Iceland after covering 2950 Sm. (9 Sep.). *** Epic flight 11 Aug.1978 (W/M.ANDERSON & L.NEWMAN) from Presque Isle, ME in "Double Eagle-II." Second Trans Atlantic attempt was successful, Landing in Miserey France after covering 3120 Sm. (5002 Km) in 137 hours and 6 minutes. ***Epic flight 26 Apr.1979 (W/L.NEWMAN) from Long Beach, CA in "Double Eagle-III." Winner of the G-Bennett B-Race, covering 1347 miles, and setting a FAI-Duration record of 75:10. ***Epic flight 12 Nov.1982 (W/ABRUZZO, AOKI, CLARK, & NEWMAN) from Nagashima, Japan in "Double Eagle-V." Completed successful Trans-Pacific crossing, landing near Covelo, CA after covering 5768 miles in 84 hours 31 minutes.
 r: Bio-data 1982