

Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Fecks

CAPLAN, Natalie "Nikki" Zemliak (F) USA (1930-1985) (HB/GB)

See APPENDIX-BJ/BL/BN/BR/BU/BX. Aeronaut Extrordinaire.

b: 7 Aug.1930, St.Louis, MO;

d: 28 Jun.1985, St.Louis, MO. e: Univ.of Missouri; BA-Washington Univ.; Georgetown University Grad School.

p: Analytical Drug Chemist (Food & Drug Administration); Instructor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (St.Louis Col. of Pharmacy); Professional Balloonist, and B-Instructor (Civil Air Patrol).

f: First B-Flight 1968 from St.Louis with D. Zavadil; First B-Solo 1972 from Grafton IL.; FAA B-License July 1973; FAA B-License #359-222-413; More than 294 gas B-hours by 1984; FAA-LTA Repairman; FAA B-Pilot Examiner, 197?-84; Flew Japan (1981), Germany (1981), France, Switzerland, England; More than 1500 B-Hours (16 Gas B-Flights) by 1983.

l: 1973, Competitor in U.S. National Hot-Air Championships; 1973, Organized the First Great Forest Park B-Race; 1973, First to fly a balloon thru the St. Louis Gateway Arch; 1977, 78,79, Official pilot for the Illinois State Fair; 1978, Organized the first N.Central Regional HB Championships; 1978, Appointed Official Missouri State Balloonist; 1979, Participated in the G-Bennett B-Races; 1980, Flew in Winter Olympics opening Ceremonies; 1981&81, Competitor in G-Bennett B-Races; 1981, Placed second in Trans-Biwa race in Japan; 1982&83, Organized the McDonnell-Douglas Aero-Classic B-Race.

m: BFA, Events Comm. 1974-78, Board of Directors 1976-79; Chairwoman of many committees.

h: 1976&79, BFA-Presidents Award; 1979-80, Shields-Trauger Award;

St.Louis"99's" Achievement Award; 1982, FAI-Montgolfier Diploma; Bust sculptured in her honor displayed at St.Louis Aero Museum. ***Epic flight 7 Oct.1982 (W/J.Buckles) from Albuquerque, NM in "Spirit of St.Louis." Flight landed in Duncomb, IA after covering 1357.63 Km. in 35:30. Established new FAI feminine distance record for Class AA-6 thru AA-15.
r: Bio-Data July-83.