



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

GRABB, William USA (1928-1982) (HB/GB)
 See APPENDIX-BD/BK/BI. Sport balloonist, Father of balloonist, David.
 b: 10 July 1928, Rochester, Y;
 d: 21 Mar.1982, Bahamas.
 s: U.S.Air Force 1954-56, Res. Captain.
 e: BS-Michigan State Univ.; MD-Univ.of Michigan.
 p: Dr.of Medicine, reconstructive surgery; died of heart attack.
 f: First B-Flight (solo) 28 July 1967 from Sioux Falls, SD; FAA B-License same date; More than 250 B-Hours in lifetime; First Gas B-Flight 1971 from St.Niklas, Belgium.
 l: 1968, Took 3rd place at Indianapolis Speedway Race; 1969-73, Competitor at 7-UP B-Races; 1970-75, Participated in U.S.Nat. B-Races; 1971, Participated in St. Niklaas Gas B-Race; 1972, Organized first annual "Ann Arbor" B-Race; 1972, Participated in "Dolder Alpine Meet" in Switzerland; 1973, Participated in World Hot-Air B-Championships; 1977, Placed first in Michigan Championship; 1980, Participated in Winter Olympic Opening Ceremonies.
 m: Balloon Federation of America, President & Vice Pres.
 h: 1973, CIA Delegate to FAI in Paris. ***Epic flight Aug.1972 (solo) from Indianola, IA. Competing in the U.S.Nat. (HB) Championships, he saw power lines in his landing path. Realizing collision was inevitable, he stretched his legs out straight, and broke the wires with the rubber soles of his shoes.
 ***Epic flight 1978 (w/E&M KRAUER) from Aspen, CO. Gas B-Flight was

aborted at the Continental Divide fishing camp after one hour.
r: Pers. interview; Wife interview-1983.