



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Eckert Eecks

WINKER, James USA (1928- (GB/HB)

See APPENDIX-BF/BI/BR/BX. Professional aeronaut.

b: 16 Dec.1928; Randall, MN.

e: Univ.of Minnesota, BS-Aero Engineering; BA-Bus. Administration.

s: U.S. Air Force, 1954-56, Major.

p: Manager Raven Industries (Mfg. of LTA products).

f: First B-Flight Oct. 1962 with Ed YOST; First B-Solo 26 May 1970 from Sioux Falls, SD. (self taught); FAA B-License 1963 (no experience req. at that time); More than 200 B-Hours, 25 Airship hours by 1983, including 3 Gas-Balloon flights totaling 9 hours.

l: 1973, Participant at World Hot-Air Championships; 1975, Test pilot of "Star" Hot-Air Airship; Flew "Star" airship in Switzerland; Participant at Munster (Germany) balloon meet; Participant in Peru "Pre-History" flight simulation; 1980, Flew at Lk.Placid (NY) opening of U.S. Winter Olympics; 1981, Co-Test pilot (w/J.Davis) of MG-1000 gas balloon; 1982, Participant at Mexico City "Gran Festival Aerostatico"; Test pilot of "Raven-Ultralight" gas balloon; NASA research grant to document 1960-90 Strato-Balloon flights; Made many trips to Russia to promote sport ballooning.

m: Amer.Inst.of Aero/Astronautics since 1968 (B & Parachute comm.); BFA Life member since 1968; LTAS, since 1969; BBAC since 1972; ABAC since 1975; Aero philatelic Federation since 1977; Air Force Assn. since 1981.

m: Shields-Trauger Award 1978; Elected "Senior Member" AIAA 1982. ***Epic flight 14 May 1975 (w/K.RUNZI) from Lucerne, Switzerland, in the "Starship" airship (N1701). Flight launched from a football stadium, carried seven sacks

of mail over the Transport Museum. The hot-air airship experienced complete engine failure after 40 minutes, and "free-ballooned" about 10 Km. The ship touched a low-voltage powerline, but landed safely near the village of Buchrain.

r: Bio-form; Pers. interview.