



Beverly Zanella

Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions

Beverly Lou (Sulzbach) Zanella was introduced to ballooning when her then boss, Robert Zanella bought a balloon in 1972. Having a large yard, it was decided to do a first inflation at her home. At first, thinking him crazy, she soon was in awe and curiosity had her crewing at every chance. The first ride had her hooked! After Bob got his license, she was one of the first in line to take lessons. It took many calls to the FAA to finally get an examiner to give her a check ride. As a result she was the second woman in Ohio to get a balloon license. (October, 1973).

She became interested in competition and did some local races. There was a need for scoring officers, so she was approved by the BFA to do this. Starting at Peru, Indiana in 1976, she did scoring for many local races in OH, also in IN and PA.

As the years went by, with more and more balloons in the area, there was a need for a repair station. In 1985, she and Bob opened Falcon's Nest Repair Station, spending many all-nighters for people who had damaged balloons at different rallies.

In 1980, she was one of the founders of The Northeast Ohio Pilots Association and served on the Board several times. She was also a presenter at the association meetings and at safety seminars. She received the Annie Pryne Award and the Gayle Myers Award from the Northeast Ohio Pilots Assn.

Even though she lost her beloved ballooning husband in 2010, she still is involved and hasn't lost her love for ballooning and for the ballooning family accumulated over the years.



See pictures and additional information on following pages.

months ago.

ZANELLA, WHO IS also an airplane pilot, skydiver and skier when not compounding prescriptions at Wyre's Pharmacy in Barberton, quickly got his balloon pilot license and enlisted Miss Sulzbach, manager of the gift shop at the pharmacy, in his ground crew.

"I was just a little afraid the first time I went up, but the fear disappeared quickly and I loved it," she said. "I never lost confidence despite the freak incidents until the day the Federal Aeronautics Association (FAA) man who tested me for the license said 'take off'."

To qualify for the test at Oberlin, Miss Sulzbach logged eight hours of instruction from Zanella which included a 5,000-foot ascension solo flight.

"IT WAS JUST like floating," Miss Sulzbach said. "I loved it."

The qualifying test took just over 30 minutes and it was such a good one that the FAA official had Miss Sulzbach take him for an additional 30-minute flight as her first passenger.

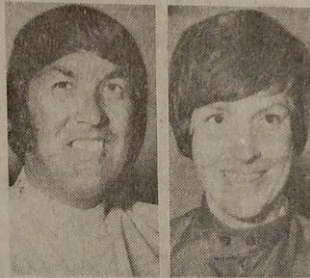
Now that she has her own license, Miss Sulzbach, of 639 Parkway Blvd., is looking ahead to owning her own balloon, becoming an instructor, and perhaps landing some commercial jobs.

Zanella, meanwhile, is looking for a replacement in his ground crew.

Miss Sulzbach and Zanella are thinking of teaming up as "Professor Z" and "Captain Bev" at fairs and carnivals next Summer.



Friday, May 16, 1975



Bob Zanella

Beverly Sulzbach

Hot Air Pair Will Soar At Festival

By TOM RYAN
Beacon Journal Staff Writer

BARBERTON — Barberton balloonists Bob Zanella and Beverly Sulzbach will take off in double hot air balloon ascensions at 7 p. m. Saturday and Sunday at the Cherry Blossom Festival at Barberton Stadium.

Inflation of the giant balloons will start at about 6:30 p. m. If winds are too high for a free flight, Zanella and Miss Sulzbach will treat the crowd to tethered flights.

Zanella, who also is an airplane pilot, sky diver and mountain skier, owns the two Semco balloons, which have won several national and special race events. Miss Sulzbach is a former student of Zanella's.

THE SEMCO balloons, which have been seen over Barberton a number of times, are 70 feet high when inflated and made of 1,500 yards of non-rip nylon.

The balloons' gondolas are 40 inches square and contain propane gas burners to give them their hot-air lift.

Zanella became a licensed pilot and balloon flight instructor in 1971. Miss Sulzbach, who was a member of his ground chase crew at the time, got her pilot's license in 1973.

In 1972, Zanella was chosen as the National Aeronautic Association's official observer when New Jersey balloonist Bob Sparks set a world endurance record of 11 hours and 14 minutes at Lafayette, Ind.