

Leo Eisenberg plants a museum seed



Leo Eisenberg studies the flight of a test balloon during the 1982 National Championships in Indianola, Iowa. Eisenberg has been active in competitive and non-competitive ballooning for many years. His recent contribution to the museum building fund gives the museum foundation a tremendous head start on the project.

At the Awards Banquet of the National Championships in Indianola, Iowa, Mr. Leo Eisenberg, renowned pilot of the *Gumball Machine*, balloon announced a personal donation of \$100,000 toward the construction of a new balloon museum.

Leo's gift has sparked a nationwide campaign to raise as much as one million dollars — the total needed to construct the entire building.

Designed to be built in stages, the construction will begin when half that sum is raised.

The response of the ballooning community has been immediate and heartwarming. Many pilots at the Nationals left their deposits for banners and propane cards to the museum's building fund, and at several recent events, pilots have voluntarily donated their advance deposit checks to the museum fund. About fifty leading balloonists across the nation have now joined a *National Museum Endorsement Committee* to assist in fund raising efforts in their localities.

In addition to asking pilots and crews to make

contributions, solicitation calls are being made to balloon manufacturers and corporations which use balloons for promotion. In addition, individuals and businesses in the Indianola-Des Moines area are being approached for contributions.

In announcing his gift, Leo said, "Outside of my family, ballooning has given me more pleasant memories than anything else in my life. I believe we need a permanent place to store and display the memories and achievements of our sport."

The only stipulation in Leo's donation is that construction of the museum be started within two years, otherwise the money will go to some other charitable organization.

Gifts to the museum building fund are tax-deductible, and all contributors will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the new museum. If you are interested in helping out with the fund drive, please call: Leo Eisenberg at (816) 221-8000; Pete Stamats at (800) 553-8878; or Don Kersten at (515) 576-4127.