

## **IN THE SKY OVER OMAHA**

John von Fuerstenberg of Omaha is from a family of aviators. His grandfather started Overland Aviation by building planes there. The members of his immediate family are all pilots. John explained he grew up living by the Omaha Municipal Airport and earned his pilot and driving licenses when he was sixteen. John said he has been a pilot instructor and plan mechanic. He is presently Executive Secretary of the Omaha Home for Boys. John said his sister, Debby Rihn Harvey, is the first woman pilot to fly Boeing 737 planes for Southwest Airlines. She is also an accomplished stunt pilot with the U.S.A. Stunt Team. John explained that Debby has the best record for competition stunt flying. She was a champion for seven years in a row. John noted that his sister has 25,000 hours of flying time plus 3,000 hours of stunt flying. The stunt plane that Debby pilots in air shows cost \$240,000 to purchase and \$100,000 annually to operate. She has sponsorships mainly from Hilton Hotels and Shell Oil. John showed video taken from her stunt plane during demonstration flights. After every 25-hr of flight the plane is taken apart to look for stress and wear. When it reaches the threshold of stress the plane is destroyed. John noted that Debby helps youth to become interested in aviation.