

After a number of delays, the Swamp Gas Journal returns. Although the last issue was dated July of 1986, it was only released in the fall of 1986.

In many ways, this is a catch-up issue. A number of events have occurred that are significant to ufology and Forteanism in general. In addition to Allen Hynek, Jim Lorenzen also passed away last year, and memoriams were printed in various zines. It was the Lorenzen series of books which served as a core for much early UFO research, and APRO started many investigators and researchers on their paths towards understanding UFOs from the sheer volume of data that it had collected.

William Streiber's book: *Communion - a True Story*, will be published by William Morrow in April of 1987 at about \$19.00 (US). It is an allegedly factual account of his contact with extraterrestrials, and I am told it is quite interesting. Budd Hopkins' book on his study of abductees is supposed to tie in with his appearance on *Man Alive* on April 1, 1987. Stanton Friedman tells me that the work is "powerful" and that the program will be an important one to watch (and tape).

Speaking of Stanton, he breezed in and out of Winnipeg in late January 1987, as part of a lecture tour that he had managed to arrange in the wake of the Japan Airlines sightings which took place last November but were announced in December/January. Stan spoke in Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Bismarck and a few other locales along the way. In Winnipeg, his lecture was part of Celebration '87: The Leading Edge, which had as its theme Canada's participation in the development of outer space technology. Stan gave two talks: one on nuclear energy awareness and the other on Flying Saucers. There might have been about thirty people at the former; perhaps 500 at the latter. So much for peoples' priorities. Because of the usual mix-ups at the U of M, his talks got very little advance publicity. However, just an hour or so before his talk, CBC graciously allowed him to be interviewed for one minute by Rocky Roletti, a rock singer who acts as their roving Winnipeg reporter. They dragged Stan down to the Planetarium (of all places), to stand in front of their UFO map of Manitoba (which I designed but got no credit for), showed his slides upside down, and chuckled over his silly hobby. Despite all of this, Stan got a very good response at his talk, being the best-attended event during the three-day lecture series. Oh, yes, I spoke somewhere in there as well, on the topic of Arms Control and Verification in Outer Space (you know, "Star Wars" stuff). All ten of the people who showed up seemed to stay awake for most of it. Actually, the lecture series was quite an excellent program, with representatives from NORAD, NASA and the Canadian Space Program as well. Being able to resolve the shape of a satellite in orbit and take real-time videos of it is one thing that tracking systems are now very capable of; the implications of this to UFO studies are quite important to realize. This and other interesting developments were discussed in detail at the conference, and I'm glad that I had a chance to take part. The proceedings are supposed to be published some time in the future.

Micahel Persinger continues to publish articles on his tectonic strain theory of UFOs, despite the increasing number of individuals who are coming forward and pointing out that the theory lacks enough substance to warrant his proliferation of the concept. He appears to have a disconcerting tendency to ignore criticisms, especially when publishing later papers. However, Stuart Campbell sent me a copy of a recent article by Claude Mauge, who details the battle between Persinger and his critics. I am pleased to see that my papers on the TST have received some attention by another individual who is taking a sensible look at the data. Despite the appealing nature of Persinger's TST, Mauge makes the comment that the theory simply does not hold up under scrutiny, and that: "...Rukowski (sic) is unfortunately totally right." Merci, Claude.

On the Astronomy front, I am teaching a short course on Astronomy and Space Exploration at the the University of Manitoba (again). It's a very small, but devoted class, and I'm finding I'm still learning a lot during the preparation. For example, did you know that the ill-fated Apollo 13 was launched at precisely 13:13, and its accident occurred on April 13 (but not a Friday)? Great news for triskedekaphobics, perhaps?

Lorette, Manitoba

NL Case 870129.1
29 January, 1987
2:30 AM

At approxiamtely 2:30 AM, one witness had left a bar in Winnipeg, and headed for Lorette. He saw a similar object to that described in Case 870115.1 (q.v.). He thought that he would attempt to signal the object, so he stopped his car and flashed his bright headlights in its direction. The object appeared to respond by reversing its direction and moving in his direction. It appeared to be no more than two miles away.

Lorette, Manitoba

NL Case 870202.1
2 Febraury, 1987
2:30 AM

On about February 2, 1987, at approximately 2:30-3:00 AM, a single witness observed an "upside-down, crescent-moon-shaped object". It was glowing white with a yellow halo around its perimeter. It appeared to be near the house of a friend of the witness. The witness telephoned the residence, but by the time he had explained his reason in calling, the object had left the area. The witness was very hesitant to describe the object, as its appearance was unlike some others he had witnessed earlier (see cases 870115.1 and 870129.1).

The object appeared to have flames shooting out of its underside when it moved; the witness believed these flames provided the object with "thrust".

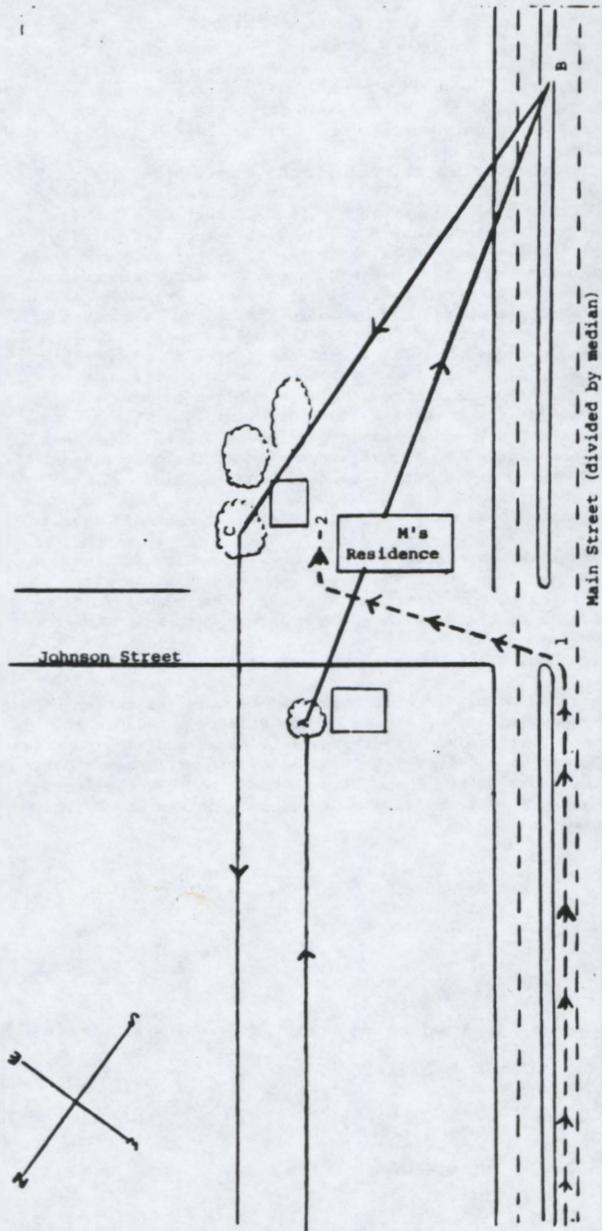
In January of 1987, an article appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press newspaper, describing some UFO cases that had been recently reported to the Manitoba Planetarium. A Planetarium spokesman, who was identified as the Director of the Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies, made an appeal to others who might have also witnessed the events to come forward and assist their investigations.

UFOROM (Ufology Research of Manitoba) representatives contacted the Planetarium for more information, but found that the Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies did not know the names of the witnesses, and had only learned of the incidents through some telephone calls. UFOROM representatives were told that the Planetarium would try and contact those individuals again as part of their investigation, and inform UFOROM of the results in two days.

After nearly three weeks, UFOROM had not been contacted by the Planetarium, so UFOROM investigators took it upon themselves to travel to one of the sighting locations, only a few minutes' drive from Winnipeg, in order to learn more about the case, as it appeared to be a significant event. The identity of the witness was determined shortly after beginning a cursory investigation, and it was learned that the Planetarium had not conducted any investigation other than the receipt of the telephone call weeks earlier from a parent of the witness.

The UFOROM investigation report is contained on the following pages.

FURTHER COMMENTS BY ROY BAUER



Legend: ——— M's Movements
 - - - - - Object's Movements

One can say with great certainty that the object described by M is unknown to the general public at the very least. During each of the three incidents, M was alone and therefore had no one to corroborate his testimony. The question one must ask, then is: if someone was with M at the time of the sighting, would he or she have observed the same object?

M is quite certain that he was consciously aware at the time of these incidents. This is especially true for the first sighting because he actually woke up his family to tell them what had happened. M was not intoxicated (at least during the first sighting) because he had come directly from work. A form of self- or autohypnosis is unlikely because of the duration of the sighting and the fact that the third sighting was made from inside the house. Although the sightings were made late at night, such large objects seen for a length of time should have been observed by other individuals.

Although other people who might have witnessed the object fear that they would be ridiculed if they would report it, I believe that the objects observed by M were not visible in our physical reality, but were a mental projection into M's reality. I had asked M if he had been under any unusual amount of stress at the time, brought about by any changes in his life. He replied that everything was normal, thus seeming to eliminate any form of poltergeist activity. What is also significant in at least two of these incidents is that the object appeared to be aware of M's presence. This was demonstrated by its following M, and by its apparent response to his flashing of the car headlights.

In conclusion, it would seem that M's experience was caused by one or more of the following:

- a) Some as yet unexplainable mental phenomenon which causes an individual to believe that a certain experience occurred even though it may have not physically occurred.
- b) The unintentional observation of a secret military craft being tested in the area.
- c) The observation by a form of intelligent life which has the ability to become visible in our space and also can manipulate the mind and memories of an observer to produce a non-threatening object. This seems more likely, as the duration of the sighting increases along with the proximity of the object(s) to the observer(s). The similarity of the object's appearance to that of an aircraft was non-threatening, which allowed a lengthy observation at close range. If the object had been very intimidating, for example, with lights flashing and glows emanating, I believe that the encounter would not have lasted as long. This brings up the possibility of a direct relationship between the proximity of the object to the witness, and the strangeness of the object itself. We could then infer that the nearer a witness is to a UFO and the more interaction that exists between them, the more non-threatening will be the appearance of the UFO.

Lorette, Manitoba

CE1 Case 870115.1
15 January, 1987
0235 local

There were, in fact, three separate incidents involved; each will be discussed separately.

The investigators involved were Roy Bauer and Chris Rutkowski; Roy Bauer conducted the bulk of the investigation.

For anonymity requested by the witness, the witness is referred to in the report as: M.

M was driving home from work on January 15, 1987, at about 2:35 AM. The weather was calm and clear. He was driving south on Provincial Hwy. 207 towards Lorette, Manitoba, located about 10 miles southeast of Winnipeg.

When he was 2 miles down highway #207, he noticed a bright light to the east, an estimated 2 miles ahead of him, and 300 feet from the road. He immediately sensed that there was something "unusual" about the light. Becoming very curious, M accelerated his vehicle to catch up to the object, at times reaching speeds of 100 mph. He caught up with the object after 3 miles, where he estimated the speed of the object to be about 60 mph. At this point, M and the object were travelling side by side nearing Lorette, with the object less than 300 feet from his car on his left-hand side.

The object was now fairly close, and M was able to examine the object in some detail. It appeared to be similar to a "plane", and M considered the possibility that the object was in fact an aircraft of some sort. It looked like a "large plane" with a wide central section ("fuselage") of about 120-130 feet in length. It had "wings" projecting from the center of the fuselage on either side of the midsection. These wings were of equal length and were rounded on the ends. Two-thirds the distance from the fuselage were what M described as "turbines" on the wings. Near the wing-tips and on the front and rear ends of the fuselage, on the underside, were bright white lights, so bright that they appeared to illuminate those portions of the craft. In the exact center of the underside of the fuselage was a large red light, about 4 feet in diameter which M described as having "a hypnotic effect like a moving spiral". The color of the craft itself appeared to be gray or green, and it seemed to be made of a "sheet metal" type of material.

As the object moved closer, to within about 70 feet, M thought that the central portions of the craft were "surrounded by some type of mist or cloud". No noise was heard being emitted by the object during the sighting. The object was still travelling less than 200 feet from the ground, heading for Lorette on a parallel course with M. While entering Lorette, it seemed to skim above the tops of houses on the outskirts of the town. Since the object had at this point followed M for a number of miles, he became convinced that it was deliberately following him for some unknown reason. He became frightened and anxious that the object would follow him home, so he decided to stop and wait on Main Street and see what the object would do. (point 1 on diagram)

The object appeared to come to a stop, hovering over some trees, (at point A) about 70 feet off the ground. After two minutes passed while both parties remained motionless, the object "shot" in front of M to stop again (B) about 1000 feet away over the middle of the Main Street. M stated that the object moved so fast he could only see a blur of light, taking only a second to travel the distance.

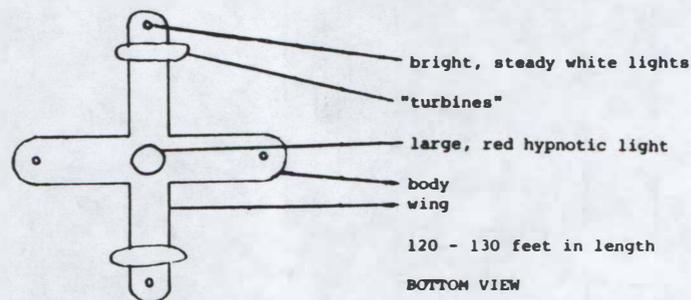
Up to this point, M believed the object could have been some form of helicopter because of its hovering ability, but after its quick movement, rejected the idea. He then "knew it was a UFO", and became scared. While the object hovered at its new location, M drove quickly into his parking area (2) behind his house. As he was "composing" himself, readying to run into the house, he noticed that the object had begun moving towards him over some bushes. It appeared to stop and hover almost directly over his car. (C) M stated that he believed the object had detected him by the heat given off by his car. He laid down on the front floor of the car so that he could not be seen. Although the object was nearly directly over him, no sound could be heard, nor any wind felt. M laid there for about ten minutes, waiting for the object to leave. After this time, the object began to move and accelerated quickly towards the northwest (towards Winnipeg). M seized this opportunity to run into the house and awaken his family to tell them what had happened. It was now about 3:00 AM, 25 minutes after the object had first been sighted. M stayed awake until about 4:30 AM, looking out the window to see if the object would return.

M's family stated that he was very much agitated and frightened when he woke them up.

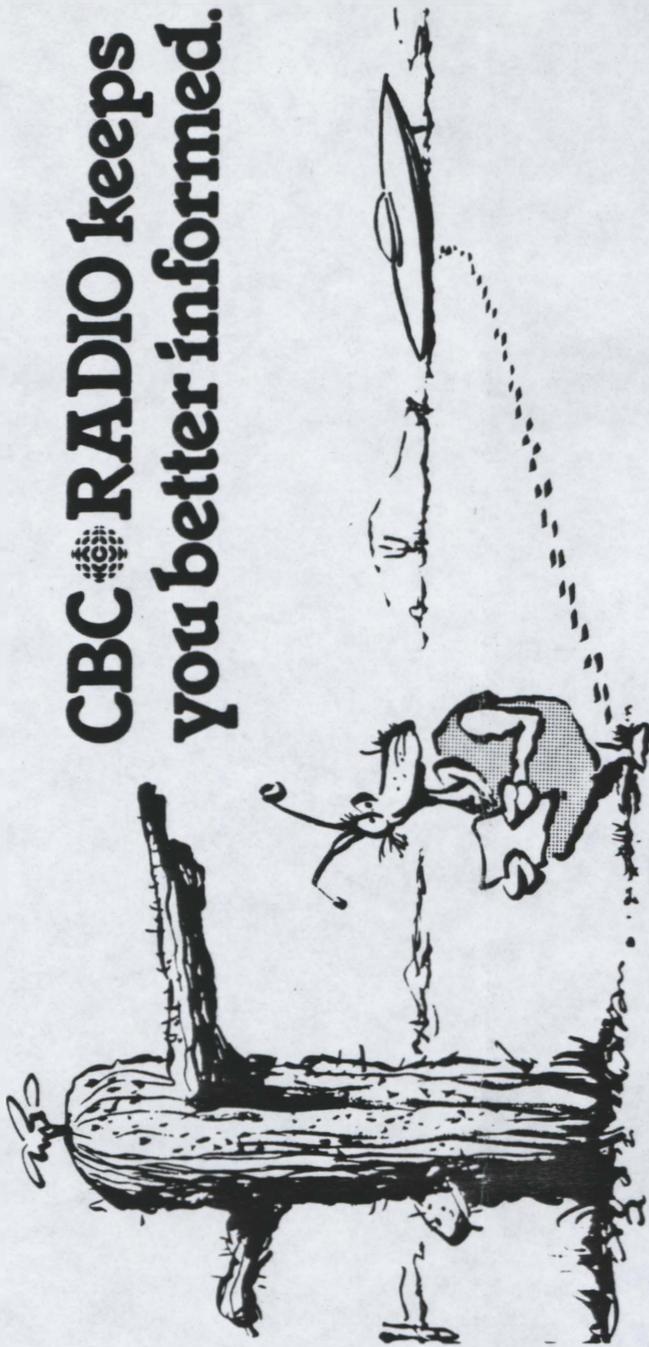
During the next few weeks, M claimed to have had two other sightings of what he thought could have been the same object, though not at as close a range as his initial sighting and experience. He was becoming weary of describing his encounters by the time the UFOPOM investigators had contacted him.

The two other additional sightings are noted as 870129.1 and 870202.1.

Conclusions: Roy Bauer has concluded that there can be only two explanations for the incident. The possibility of a hoax can be ruled out because the witness himself was not forthcoming with the report. Because of the physical resemblance of the object to an aircraft, the possibility of it having been an experimental vehicle does exist, though its movement and description defy comparison to known experimental craft. Because of this unlikelihood, the case will be classified as unknown.



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