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UFO's and I

1988 is sure starting off to be a remarkable year. Whitley Strieber's Communion is slated to be turned into a movie. The Man Alive UFO special was replayed in December of 1987, and was again one of the highest-rated episodes ever. And there was a remarkable trio of sightings in Australia in January so far this year. Of course, Australia or New Zealand always do that each year about this time.

As fate would have it, my name appeared in OMNI in both the December, 1987, and the January, 1988, issues. The first was in an aside concerning the statistical findings of Michael Persinger, in which I pointed out that Garbage In equals Garbage Out, the old computing axiom. The second instalment was an interview with Jerome Clark, in which I described several doctoral theses written on the subject of UFOs. I also commented on my decision to not accept an offer from some professors at the University of Manitoba that I produce a thesis of my own on UFOs or a related topic. I did write a postgraduate paper for a geophysics professor, who suggested the idea first, but I never got any farther than finding people willing to sit on an advisory committee. Later, and as recently as last year, I did develop a thesis topic on a different subject, namely Nuclear Arms Verification in Space, and was working with an advisory committee. However, the effort stalled, like the first, because I simply cannot afford to register at this time. Without a decent amount of savings, I simply cannot quit my present job to attend university again. And even if I did, there were no assurances from anyone that I could find a good-paying job once I completed the postgraduate degree(s). Hence, until I get enough money or some sort of grant, I remain an "independent researcher", working in a library and writing for a newspaper to make ends meet.

A relatively minor error with the OMNI article caused a bit of a stir on campus. I recall getting called by a proofreader, who read the article to me over the phone from New York. It was fine, but I told the woman that I was no longer with the Geophysics Department, and could she simply say that I was "with the University of Manitoba"? She said she would amend the copy. She didn't.

I'm having nearly the same success with newspapers. I now review books for the Winnipeg Free Press, and one review was a triple-header, on Communion, Intruders and UFOs: 1947-1987. Most readers will be familiar with the first two, but the third is an edited compilation by Hilary Evans and John Spencer. With about as much competence as expected, the paper mixed up the publishing information for the book, and the review itself contained several typos. However, the message was clear: all three are books both reading, and I hope they stimulated many people to pick up a copy. Both Communion and Intruders are out in paperback, and Avon Books even was giving out buttons with a picture of Strieber's alien on them.

In the International UFO Reporter, Volume 12, Number 5, 1987, Jenny Randles describes her contact with Ralph Noyes, a "source" in the RAF and the British Ministry of Defence. Noyes later retired and wrote a science fiction novel, "loosely based" on his experiences with UFO reports. Jenny found that the novel included too many thinly-disguised facts to be merely a work of fiction, and suggested that Noyes knows much more than he's telling. Well, I was in a

small suburban library in January, getting ready to teach a class in science fiction, when I realised I had several minutes to spare before the class began. I wandered over to the "new book" shelf, and Noyes' book: "A Secret Property" was the first book I saw. It's quite strange to read, and does contain characters that seem very familiar. In fact, one fellow is named Conrad Friedman, and is a bit of a thorn in the side of those covering up some sightings.

And speaking of nobody in particular, Stanton Friedman came into Winnipeg again at the end of January. This time, the University seemed to forget all about inviting him to speak, and I found myself putting up posters and calling the media myself. The result was that he did five or six good interviews and three public lectures in two days. In addition to his UFO talks, he spoke twice on Food Irradiation, getting a sparse crowd at the University. This was surprising, since the topic is feverishly debated in the media these months.

During his evening lecture on UFOs, he showed slides of the infamous MJ-12 documents. The attentive, 300+ audience included Simone Simosko and her family, members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, including Gord Mathews, Paul Hammer, Grant Cameron, Myra Banman (Rutkowski-to-be) and myself. No one from the media or the Planetarium UFO "Centre" were in attendance. During the slides, I pointed out an interesting observation to Grant, who later discussed the fact with me at length. (As readers of SGJ may know, Grant is one of Canada's foremost UFO document experts.) We realized that the MJ-12 documents have holes punched along their left sides, as if for a three-ring binder. This simple point has never been brought up in any of the discussions I have seen on the subject, yet is quite fascinating. The MJ-12 documents have the punched holes, as if they have been stored for a long time in a closed binder. It would make sense that if the documents really are "1 of 1", then their storage in a binder does support their veracity. Also, would someone faking the documents know enough to put the holes in? Stanton told us later that initial inquiries have suggested that the placing of unique documents in binders is practiced in official files. Another interesting point is that the documents showed no wear around the edges of the holes. Have you ever seen a perfectly round binder hole? My experience is such that these occur only in the center of binders. I suggested that perhaps enhancement of the holes in the photos might reveal some wear. Alternatively, the MJ-12 papers might be in the center of a large binder of similar documents. If the documents were faked, why would one bother to punch holes in the paper, if not to match the storage of similar documents? A curious detail, that may be very relevant, or a red herring.

A few more books worth noting. Night Siege, written by Allen Hynek, Philip Imbrogno and Bob Pratt, is now out, detailing sightings in upstate New York over the past five years. Not a bad work, but it pays little more than lip service to the very negative articles that appeared, for example, in the New York Times, explaing many of the reports. Pratt writes with his National Enquirer style, with Imbrogno giving the details of many investigations. Time/Life Books has published The UFO Phenomenon as part of its Mysteries of the Unknown Series. They had contacted me some time ago regarding photos of UFOs and IFOs, and I had complied by sending over a dozen. They sent all of them back, and didn't use any of them, but I still got a complimentary copy, though I am uncredited in the book. Timothy Good's Above Top Secret has been out in England for several months, though no bookstore in Winnipeg has yet heard of it. Grant Cameron has received a copy on loan from a library in the USA, and has given me a mixed review. I'm told that my FSR articles on the Michalak case are discussed in the text, so I'm anxious to see how they were used in the context of government cover-up.

Speaking of the Michalak case, his son works for the local media, and I have met with him a few times over the past months. He read the manuscript of an article I wrote detailing my impressions of the case, twenty years after the fact. I'm highly critical of the way the case was handled by CAPRO at the time, and I have found that investigators failed to interview many key witnesses. The article will appear in IUR soon, probably before you read this, under a title which suggests the case was "bungled". While it is true that I did use that word in the article, its harshness has already been pointed out to me in complaints by some of those involved. I won't point any fingers at this late date, especially since most of the questions raised by the case cannot be answered now, but I will say that I have presented the facts as I have received them, and cannot be held responsible if some of it looks bad for other people. Call me "Slap" Rutkowski.

Another book to watch out for, again from Hilary Evans and John Spencer, is "From Flying Saucers to UFOs", due to be published by MacDonald & Co. in England in the Spring of 1988. Yet another book is in the works, and I am a contributor to both.

John Robert Colombo, trivia compilator and publisher of collections of facts and stories about everything from Canadian quotations to the Wendigo, is coming out with a book on Canadian Mysteries this Spring. I provided him with information about some entries, but his work is largely a collection of material by other writers, as usual. It will be interesting to see what he has to say about Canada's best-known UFOs, ghosts and monsters, and who gave him the stories.

UFOZINES AND FANZINES RECEIVED

NYFORVARV 1986; AFU Newsletter, P.O. Box 11027 S-600 11 Norrkoping, Sweden, #28,29; SAF Bulletin, Box 2238 S-171 02 Solna, Sweden, V.19, #5; UFO Rivista di Informazione Ufologica, CISU Corso Vittorio Emmanuele 108, 10121 Torino, Italia, V.1, #1,2; Ufologia, Clypeus Box 604, 10100 Torino, Italia, #15,16; John Musgrave Mailings #557-632; UFO Newsclipping Service, Lucius Farish, Rte. 1, Box 220, Plumerville, AK, 72127, #208,212,216; UFO Belgium, Koning Albertstraat 40, 3500 Hasselt, 1986,1987,1988 no.1; Free Speech, P.O. Box 220, Clifford, Ontario, NOG 1MO, #7-12; MLR, 79 Karma Road, Unionville, ON L3R 4S8, #1; JRASC #597-607 & suppls; Winnicentrics, 1986-1987; Novoid, 1118 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N OW2; Space Wastrel, P.O. Box 545, South Perth, W. Australia 6151, V.2 #2,3,4; Got It, Thanks!, 642 Ingersoll St., Wpg R3G 2J4, #1 A Man and His Mimeo, 1118 College Dr., Saskatoon, #1; I'm Not Boring You Am I?, Postal Station South Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5G5, P.O. Box 4655, #3,4,5,6; Neogenesis, Box 4071, Edmonton, AB, T6E 4S8, V.1, #1; All of the Above, 6-3957 Bond St., Burnaby, BC V5H 1E7, #1; The Blotter, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, M4L 3P3, #6; MINICON 22 mailings, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408; Neology P.O. Box 4071, PSSE, Edmonton, T6E 4S8; Back in Time, Postfach 1524, D-2070 Ahrensburg, Germany, #6; Computer UFO Newsletter, via Matteotti 85, L-22072 Cermante (Como) Italy, V.1, #3; Pursuit, P.O. Box 265, Little Silver, NJ, 07739-0265, V.19, #3; UFO Potpourri, P.O. Box 58485, Houston, TX, 77258-8485, #306-312; Tone, 1821 Prince of Wales Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K2C 1P2; V.1,#8; Cambridge UFO Research Group, Bonnie Wheeler, 170 Strathcona St., Cambridge, ON N3C 1R4, #24,25,26,27; CENAP Report, Eisenacher Weg 16, 6800 Mannheim 31, Germany, #141; Massachusetts MUFON Newsletter, 43 Harrison St., Reading, MA 01867, #34-45//Orbiter #1,2; and yes, I have tried to read each of them....

The Swamp Gas Journal is published at irregular intervals by Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM). The editor and author of most contributions is Chris Rutkowski. However, discussions with and assistance from the following individuals is greatly appreciated: Vladimir Simosko, Gord Mathews, Roy Bauer, Stanton Friedman, Myra Banman, Grant Cameron, Guy Westcott, Michelle Baert and Lisa Gohl.

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Орган Центрального Комитета ВЛКСМ

КОМСОМОЛЬСКАЯ ПРАВДА

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10 FEB 1985

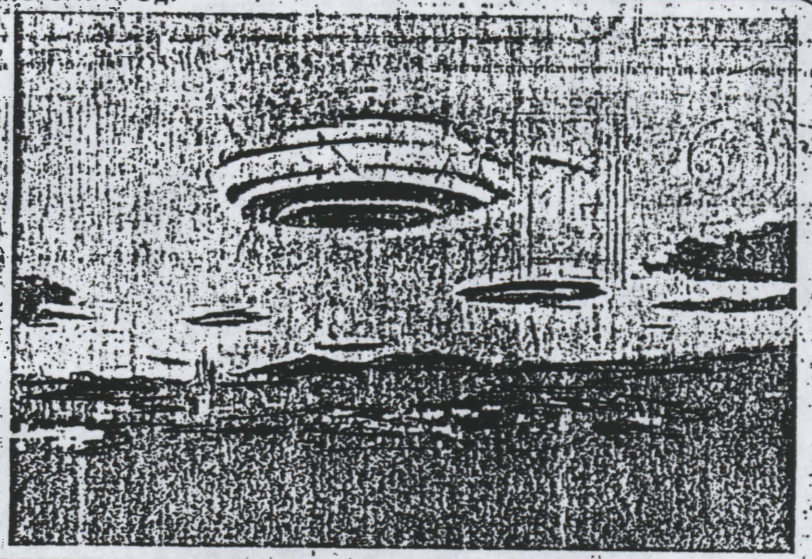
ОКНО В ПРИРОДУ

Летающие тарелки... пожалуйста!

Природа с седых времен поражает воображение человека. Затмения луны и солнца, кометы, радуги, смерчи, шаровые молнии, полярные сияния, миражи, огни Эльма... Сколько суеверий, страха, предположений вызывали они у людей. Сегодня, в век компьютеров, спутников, ядерных реакторов, телевидения, чем может поразить природа воображение человека!

Любителям всего необычного, непривычного стоит внимательно рассмотреть фотографию... Ну как не подумать о том, что вот они, пришельцы других миров, взялись и опускаются на отведенную им Землю. Однако эти летающие тарелки — всего лишь скопления облаков. Правда, необычных, вместе возникающих над землей. Они относятся к типу облаков «чечевицей волны». Это абсолютно подлинная фотография, воспроизведенная в последнем номере журнала «Курьер ЮНЕСКО», сделана в Бразилии в 1969 году.

В. ПЕСКОВ.



CHRIS: I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE HELL THE ABOVE IS ABOUT, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED.

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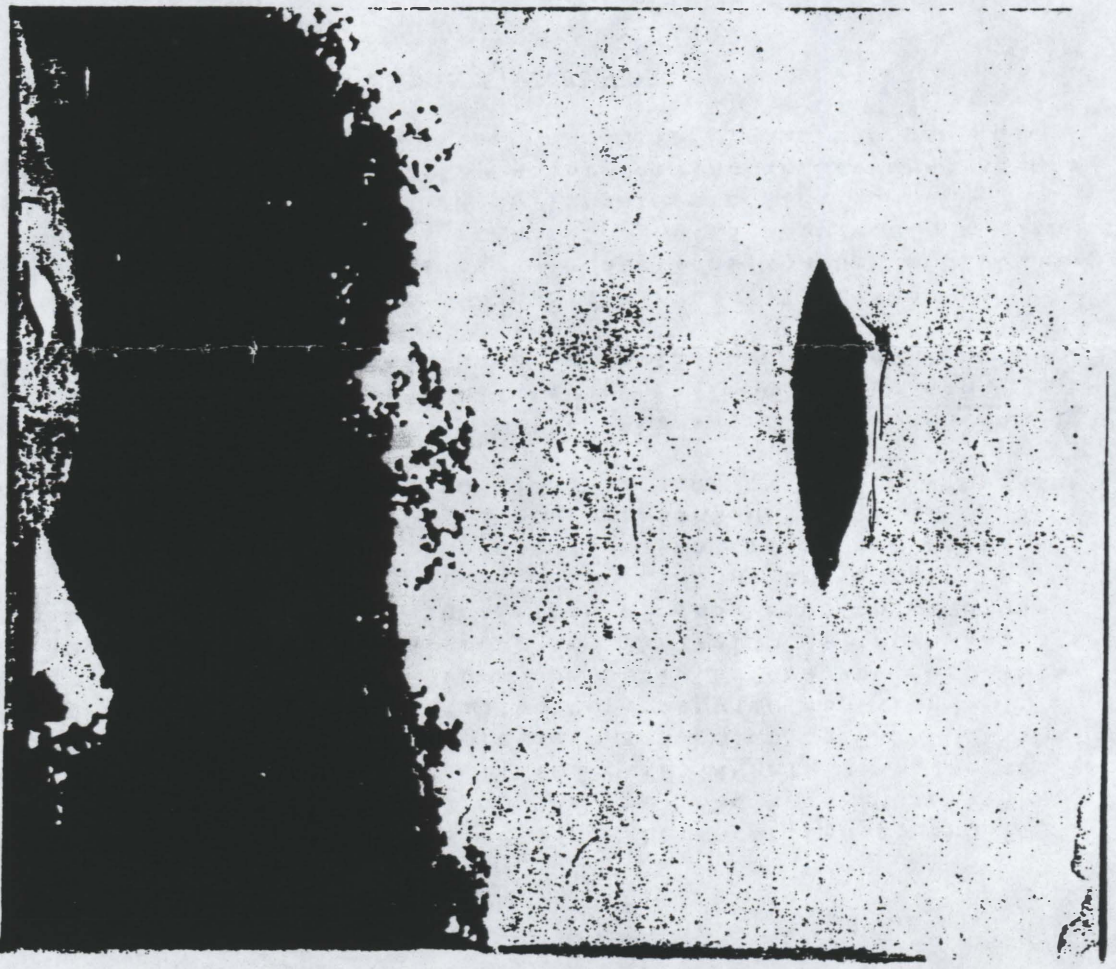

RECENT LOCAL SIGHTINGS OF UFOs

Miami, Manitoba December 12, 1986 1:20 AM
A man was travelling near the town when he saw a "parade" of objects proceed across the sky from the West, A white globe of light with an orange "tail" was followed by three red lights with similar "tails", then two more lights followed after them as well. This sighting lasted approximately 5 minutes.

Lorette, Manitoba January 15, 1987 2:35 AM
A man was travelling towards Lorette, and noticed a bright light in the East, about 2 miles ahead of him. He eventaully caught up with the object, and travelled side-by-side with it les than 300 feet away from his car. It was "cross-shaped", appearing to be a fuselage with winglike protuberances on either side. The object approached to within 100 feet, but at this point, they were nearing town, and it veered away. The witness drove through the town to his home, and from his driveway watched as the object hovered over some houses and moved to a position directly above his car. When it moved away, he dashed to "safety" in his house,

Lorette, Manitoba January 29, 1987 2:30 AM
A man was driving near Lorette, and saw a brightly-lighted object approximately 2 miles away. He stopped his car, and signalled with his headlights, and the object appeared to repond by moving slightly in his direction.

Lorette, Manitoba Febraury 2, 1987 2:30 AM
A lone witness observed an "upside-down, crescent-shaped object", with flames "shooting out" of its underside. It was glowing white, with a yellow halo around its edges. It moved swiftly away when the witness tried to telephone a friend to alert him of the object's presence,.

Great Falls, Manitoba January 30, 1987 12:15 AM
A woman was walking her dog near a highway, when she saw a group of four green lights moving towards her position, travelling along the road. As it reached her position, it suddenly veered away, across a field, She observed no "body" to the object, which was lost to sight in the distance after a few minutes.

near Thunder Bay, Ontario May 17, 1987 7:23 PM
The pilot and crew of a commercial aircraft observed on radar a large object which moved at a great speed. Its size was calculated to be greater than a 747, and it appeared to travel at over 5200 km per hour. It was calculated to be about 80 km away, and was not observed visually. The target was not confirmed on any other radar; the pilot has 21 years of flying experience, and has never had a similar experience.

Bereton Lake, Manitoba June 16, 1987 12:40 AM
A mother and her son observed an unusual object moving slowly from the East to the Southwest across the lake. It was a round, red light, with two smaller lights on each side.

Winnipeg, Manitoba July 10, 1987 5:15 AM
A "high-pitched whine" was heard by several residents. No object was seen,

Carberry Junction, Manitoba July 13, 1987 11:40 PM
A priest was travelling west on the Trans-Canada Highway when he saw what he thought was "an emergency vehicle" turn onto the road in front of him. It was "about the size of a van", but had no headlights or brakelights. Its lighting consisted only of three sets of inverted U-shaped strings of red lights at its front, middle and rear. When he moved almost alongside the object, within 5 feet, the lights went out, and the object totally disappeared.

Bereton Lake, Manitoba August 12, 1987 12:15 AM
A man was driving along a highway and passed a group of red and blue lights off the side of the highway in the bush. He stopped and backed up until he was alongside the lights, which were partly hidden by the trees. The lights were extinguished after a few minutes, Later, he returned during the day, but could not see any evidence of houses, huts, roads, tractors, etc.

Riverton, Manitoba August 31, 1987
A young couple were caught in the bright glow of a UFO seemingly floating above them. Their car was bathed in an orange glow, and they were very frightened by their experience,

Anola, Manitoba Summer, 1987 11:00 PM
A man was driving between Anola and Winnipeg, and noticed two objects "hovering" in the sky". Nether object moved during the observation.

Ashern, Manitoba September 4, 1987 11:30 PM
A woman was driving near Ashern when she saw a "mysterious sphere" slowly rising from behind a group of trees. The orange object had six V-shaped lights hanging down from it. After about one minute of observation while the object "hovered", flames shot out from one of the protuberances.

Bismarck, North Dakota December 4 , 1987 6:40 PM
A man observed a "burger-box-shaped" object apparently hovering over some power lines about 1/4 mile distant. It had red and green blinking lights, and appeared to be about the size of an automobile. It moved away during the observation to a greater distance in a very short period of time, then disappeared from view.

Summary:

861212.1	0120 local	Miami, MB	NL Possible Astron/Aircraft
870115.1	0235 local	Lorette, MB	CE1 Unknown
870129.1	0230 local	Lorette, MB	NL Possible Aircraft
870130.1	0015 local	Great Falls, MB	CE1 Possible Automobile/Truck
870202.1	0230 local	Lorette, MB	ND Possible Astronomical
870517.1	1923 local	Thunder Bay, ON	RD Unknown
870616.1	0040 local	Bereton Lake, MB	NL Possible Aircraft
870710.1	0515 local	Winnipeg, MB	UEX Insufficient Information
870713.1	2340 local	Carberry Junction, MB	CE1 Unknown
870812.1	0015 local	Bereton Lake, MB	NL Possible Off-Road Vehicles
870831.1		Riverton, MB	CE1 Insufficient Information
879999.1	2300 local	Anola, MB	Probable Astronomical
870904.1	2330 local	Ashern, MB	CE1 Insufficient Information
871204.1	1840 local	Bismarck, ND	ND Unknown

Breakdown:

Probable Explanations:	1
Possible Explanations:	6
Insufficient Informations:	3
Unknowns:	4
Total Cases:	14 (Dec.86/Dec.87)

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