

Opening Notes

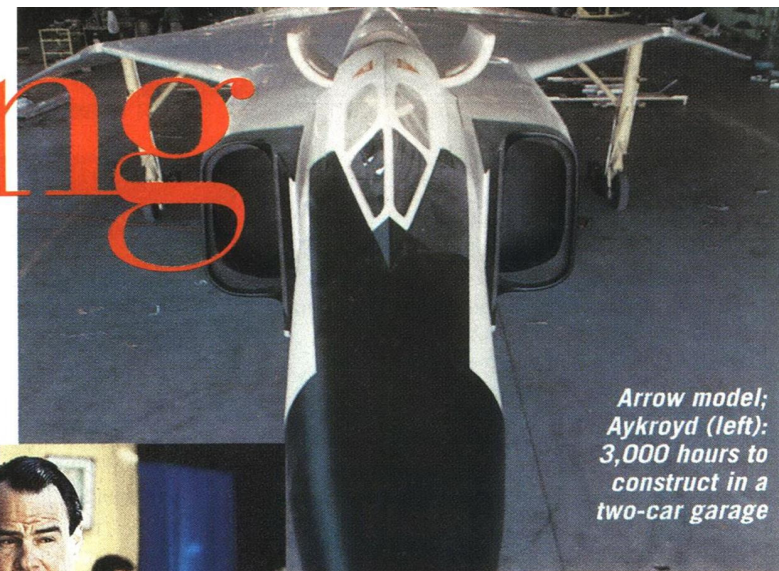
Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

Helping a Canadian legend to take flight

It was a tall order. The producers of *The Arrow*, a CBC mini-series now being shot in Winnipeg, had a great Canadian story and an established Canadian star, Dan Aykroyd. But in preparing the drama about the development of the Avro Arrow jet fighter, the producers still had to cast the central role—the plane itself. After Ottawa's controversial cancellation of the Arrow in 1959, the last of the jets were chopped up and sold for scrap. Deciding that they would have to build a

full-scale mock-up of the plane, the film-makers discovered a man who was one step ahead of them. Last fall, through an Arrow Web site on the Internet, they contacted Alan Jackson, 57, an Alberta hobbyist who had spent five years building a mock Arrow in his two-car garage.

A sales estimator for a steel-grating plant in Wetaskiwin, 70 km south of Edmonton, Jackson



Arrow model; Aykroyd (left): 3,000 hours to construct in a two-car garage



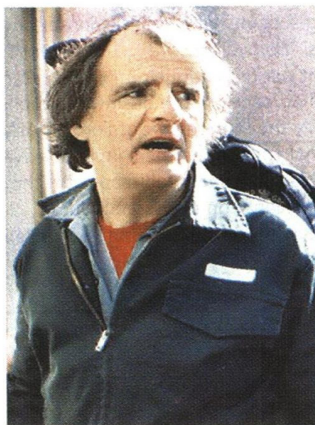
MARNI GROSSMAN

says he devoted about 3,000 hours of his spare time to building the life-size model, out of steel, wood and fibre glass. It was 80 per cent complete when he agreed to rent it to the film-makers, who would finish the job in Winnipeg. It took three tractor trailers to trans-

port the components of the plane, which is 80 feet long and has a 50-foot wingspan. It is not flyable, but can taxi under its own power. "I guess I had a dream," says Jackson, whose teenage aspirations to be an aerospace engineer were dashed with the cancellation of the Arrow program. Now, 37 years later, his dream has taken flight—not in the sky, but in the raising of a Canadian legend.

Computer crime-solver

Partway through 1990's *Silence of the Lambs*, the FBI investigator played by Jodie Foster remarks that no pattern exists to her quarry's killings—if there were, she says, "the computer would have picked it up." When the movie was shot, Foster's character was jumping the gun: no program or computer existed that could determine patterns in geographic data about crimes. That has now changed, thanks to Det. Insp. Kim Rossmo, a 16-year veteran of the Vancouver police department who also has a PhD in criminology. Building on work undertaken for his degree at Simon Fraser University in nearby Burnaby, B.C., Rossmo has developed software that sifts through thousands of de-



BRYAN SCHLOSSER/REGINA LEADER-POST

Olson: geographic patterns

tails, such as where a killer is known to have met his victims, committed the murders and dumped the bodies. It then predicts locales familiar to the killer, near where he works or, more often, near his residence. Tested retroactively, for instance, on the crimes of serial killer Clifford Olson, the program accurately pinpointed an area around Olson's home in Coquitlam, B.C. Now, Rossmo is preparing to unleash his digital Holmes in an off-the-shelf version. Backed by Sun Microsystems Federal Inc. of Mountainview, Calif., Rossmo and several B.C. partners have developed a prototype workstation—currently being tested by Vancouver police—and begun talking to potential customers. One sales prospect: the real-life FBI unit in which Foster's rather prescient character was employed in *Silence of the Lambs*.

The way the ball bounces

When Canadian tennis player Greg Rusedski opted last year to play under a British passport (his mother is British), he annoyed many Canadian fans who had hoped that the six-foot, three-inch left-hander could be a top 20 player for Canada. Still, the Montreal native had his reasons: he stepped in as Britain's top player, which meant there was potential for hefty endorsement money. The world's 47th-ranked player in May, 1995, when he made the swap in time for Wimbledon, he rose gradually to a career high of 33 in January. But since then, Rusedski has tailed off, so that as Wimbledon opens this week, he is the number 2 British player, behind Davis Cup teammate Tim Henman. His rankings since trading in the Maple Leaf for the Union Jack:

