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NEVER WAS AN ARROW

A LITTLE BIT OF AVIATION, A LITTLE BIT OF RELIGION...AND A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING ELSE -

FAVS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007

≈CNA++

AVRO Mansion...and the "One" That Got Away.

ignatius INSIGHT

Coren's Comment

Yes or No?

Against the Grain

News Designer

Drawn to Catholicism

five feet of fury

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Religion of Peace (ha, ha!)

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WHEN A.V. ROE Canada Limited started to unravel as a company it had already become the 3rd largest company in Canada within only a few short years.

AVRO was not only building the famed Avro Arrow, and those FLYING SAUCERS (the Avrocars), but it had also set its' sights on a venture into space!

Even more importantly, and even more secretly than the Arrow and Iroquois projects, AVRO Canada had embarked on another large-scale goal known to only a select few. AVRO Canada was already midstride in building a large, "vertically integrated" empire of enterprise!

This was the goal, not only according to famed aviation author Peter Zuuring, Avro and Arrow expert, but according to others as well.

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ABOUT ME



NEVER WAS AN ARROW
II

Hey...what's to say.
Aviation photos that
have been published
worldwide and currently researching
for a book to be published in 2010.
All photographs, text and graphics
are mine, unless otherwise specified.
Other digital files and text are

It was here, on this 11-acre parcel of land, high above the streets of Toronto, where details of the "empire" could be discussed with an absolute guarantee of privacy.

Here...far away from the Government of Canada, the RCAF, the "moles" inside the Avro plants, and all others who just didn't understand INDUSTRY, plans for this colossal empire were being forged, and then routinely executed. Expansion through acquisition.

Viscount Montgomery, "Monty" (formerly commander of the Eighth British Army in North Africa during WW II), was entertained by AVRO Canada and enjoyed a private dinner with other notables here, back in the heyday of both Avro and the mansion.

Ironically enough, this English style palace is only two stone throws... maybe three...from the elementary school I had attended from kindergarten to Grade six! I even stumbled upon this "mystery mansion" when I was riding around the area on my Duomatic bike one day.

In Avro's last days...there had been many, mysterious midnight runs from the Avro Malton facility to Ottawa.

But there was only one such "run" to this refuge. And it was here, at that very last stronghold of AVRO Canada...where very likely the "one that got away" ended up. Brought here, under a shroud of secrecy, during a very well-planned, and well-executed "midnight run".

I once met a white and wispy haired old man, so long ago now – at an aviation trade show convention. He had overheard me talking about the Avro Arrow to a woman who had recently completed a labour of love: a highly detailed, rectangular quilt of the Arrow in level flight.

He interrupted our talk and grabbed me by the arm (rather forcefully I might add), turned me about, and said, "It's at the house!"

What?!

"It's at the house!!"

Ma questions folks...and absolutely no answers ~

(If you do know...drop me a line)

(I won't tell you where the house is, or what it once was called, but you'll know it with certainty, should you find it, by the Four Watchers just above the main door! And if you do find it, as I did, perhaps you better not pry too deeply because there are very likely MORE THAN the Four Watchers, still watching...)

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©1997 Maclean's

©1980 The Arrow

©1975 CBC There Never Was An Arrow

POSTED BY NEVER WAS AN ARROW II AT 6:01 AM

LABELS: A. V. ROE CANADA LTD., AVRO ARROW, AVRO CANADA, CF-105, EMPIRE, FOUR WATCHERS, MONTY, RCAF

3 COMMENTS:

Anne said...

Fascinating. Look forward to an update on this mystery.

FEBRUARY 25, 2007 9:10 AM

Anonymous said...

I too found this house. Located close to my work. Thought I would take a stroll on by. The majority of the property is covered by apartments now. The only bit of the land left is a heavily wooded ravine running right behind the house. I took a stroll through the revine, but could not see anything. If it is there, it is well hidden.

JUNE 1, 2008 9:14 PM

Anonymous said...

Its underground, behind the house.

JUNE 10, 2008 12:27 PM

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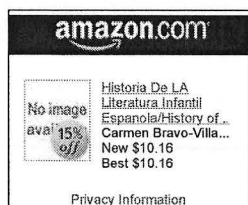
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AVRO "BRINK CREST"



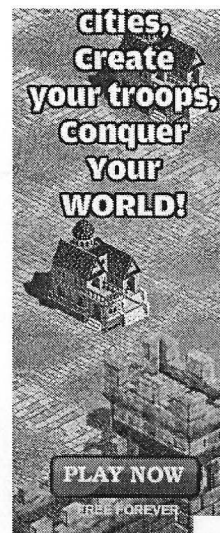
Deisher and later purchased by the company, Briarcrest was the scene of many high-level executive meetings as well as shelter for some of the world's leading aircraft and government officials. The home, now an office building, is located on the south-west corner of Islington Ave. and Dixon Road.



Photo by Dave Cook.

There is even a hidden passageway off the main living room to add a little intrigue to a house that once played host to the power-brokers and government Ministers who ruled and shaped the history of our country.

Briarcrest is no longer a residential property, but instead, is used as office space for a variety of businesses.



Fourteen months after the group of dedicated AVRO history buffs completed their work and rolled out the Arrow replica, news of a collection of internal memos, documents, pictures, once top-secret plans and drawings of AVRO and the Arrow were placed on the auction block by an unidentified retired AVRO aeronautical engineer.

The auction was held on Sunday, December 9, 2007, and conducted by Toronto's Empire Auction. Three people presented bids via a telephone link to the auctioneer. In a matter of a few minutes, the successful bid was announced at \$32,000. The buyer's commission of 15 percent brought the total to \$36,800.

It was later confirmed through Empire Auctions that the purchaser was a private bidder and not representing a museum or agency.

Both the seller and the purchaser remained anonymous but the purchaser did release a statement through Empire Auction management following the auction.

"This is a collection that belongs in Canada. I am proud to have been the successful bidder and I can assure everyone that all items will remain in Canada."

<-- previous

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