

Amor De Cosmos. (A short bio history).

Amor de Cosmos, as he later became known, was born Bill Smith on Aug 20, 1825 in Windsor, Nova Scotia. As a young man, inspired by Joseph Howe the politician and journalist, he travelled by train to New York with the intention to cross America inspired by tales of gold in the great migration west. After arriving in Kansas City by rail he joined a wagon train but this method of travel proved too slow for him and so Amor abandoned the safety of the wagon train for a single horse and pack, purchasing one of the first daguerreotype cameras with a tripod in Salt Lake City, which he strapped to his pack for the journey to California. He crossed the desert this way, narrowly escaping death from attacks by hostile natives, the perils of hunger, heat and contaminated water. Arriving in California he made money by taking photos of miners staking their gold claims. Later he purchased real estate and then changed his name from William Smith to Amor De Cosmos. 'Lover of the Universe'. Soon after gold was discovered on the Fraser River in British Columbia, Amor arrived in Victoria, and announced his intention to start 'the most popular newspaper thereabouts'. That was in 1857. Today that newspaper is still in existence. Other achievements he was instrumental in realising were; (1) The building of the E & N railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo. (2) Being elected 2nd premier of the province of British Columbia. Also, (3) as an early champion in the cause for the Confederation of Canada he is often acknowledged as being the 'godfather' of Confederation. There are numerous stories of legendary speeches and his great popularity as a leader of the people against the establishment of the times. Later in life, his hair dyed green, wandering the streets carrying a cane, his bizarre and often violent outbursts and eccentric behavior, made him a figure of ridicule. Having been declared insane and institutionalized some years before, Amor died on July 4th 1897, His funeral was witnessed by only a few curious on-lookers and he was buried in Ross Bay cemetery in relative obscurity.

That should have been the end of the story. But today, over 100 years later there are claims he has returned. And for those that meet him, life will never be the same again.

STORY OUTLINE.

Ross Murdoch an investigative reporter for CKNY.T.V., is tracking down reports suggesting Amor de Cosmos, who died 100 years previous has resurfaced. We meet a number of people who bear witness to having met Amor and conversed with him.

There are also unexplainable postcards documenting these encounters. Each person who has been left a postcard as an instantaneous memento of the occasion. The reporter is offered an opportunity for an encounter, subject to certain conditions. Their meeting provides a baffling development of the visitation phenomenon, and the story ends with a question mark on a full circle.



David Simmonds.

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May 1987.