NOVELS

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, my English teacher asked the class to write a short story. This prompted a dream in which dreaming had stopped the world over. In the dream, a young boy began to have "experiences while asleep" that included talking animals, trees that moved, and other strange things. When he told his parents of these experiences, they thought something was wrong with him and took him to doctors. The doctors concluded that, indeed, something was wrong.

I used this dream as a basis for my short story. I entitled it, "When Dreams Stopped."

Used to getting high marks, I was shocked when the teacher gave me an F and asked me to see her after class. She told me she knew I had copied the story from somewhere and for that reason, even if she did not know where I had copied the story from, she gave me an F. Over the years, in college, in graduate school and after, I tried to write this dream into a longer story, if not a novel. I always failed.

Fifty years or more later, I took a writing class. The teacher, on hearing my tale of woe, told me to stop trying to write the "old story" and to focus on writing something "new" and just start by writing what came spontaneously.

I did that and the log jam with the old story broke open to something new. The "new," however, was triggered by a dream. From the dream I learned that what I was to write was titled, *DREAMS: The Final Heresy.* It was the dream's idea, but I took it seriously and found that the writing began to flow.

I have not quite finished the first draft, but it is currently 500 pages in length. I am going to begin posting completed chapters and would welcome any comments you might have, particularly answering the question, "Do you want to continue reading."

A second novel, also prompted by a dream, is entitled, *The Rule of Three.* In the dream, I saw the title page with this title and a subtitle, *An Arlan Condon Mystery.* Arlan Condon is a main character in *Dreams: The Final Heresy.* Mystery indeed! I will be posting chapters from this as well as soon as I finish them.