

THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT

— Part 1

Prologue: 1967

Chris Rutkowski

STEPHEN MICHALAK arrived in the resort town of Falcon Lake on the night of May 19, 1967, intent on doing some amateur prospecting in the area the next day. He left his motel at 5.30 the next morning, and headed north into the bush. By 9.00 a.m., travelling under a bright, cloudless sky, he had found a quartz vein near a marshy area, close to a small stream. At 11.00 a.m. he had lunch, then went back to his examination of the quartz formation.

At 12.15 p.m., with the sun high and clouds gathering in the west, Michalak was startled by the cackling of a gaggle of geese nearby, obviously disturbed by something. He looked up, and was surprised to see two cigar-shaped objects with "bumps" on them, at about forty-five degrees in elevation, descending and glowing red. As they approached closer, they appeared to be more oval and then disc-shaped. Suddenly, the furthest one of the pair stopped in midflight, while the other drew nearer and landed on a large, flat rock, which was later determined to be about 160 feet away. The one in the air hovered for a short while, then began rising and departed, changing from red to orange to grey as it flew into the west, where it disappeared behind the clouds, changing colour back to orange. Its movement at all times during its departure, like the arrival of it and its landed companion, was quick and noiseless.

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EDITOR

Turning his attention back to the craft on the ground, Michalak saw that it, too, was turning from red down to grey in colour, until it finally was the colour of "hot stainless steel," surrounded by a golden-hued glow. Michalak was kneeling on a rock as he observed the object, and wearing welding goggles which he usually wore to protect his eyes from rock chips. A brilliant purple light was flooding out of openings in the upper part of the craft, dazzling the eyes and making everything around seem purple (Michalak said that it left red after-images in the eye). For the next half-hour, he sat on the rock, making a sketch of the object and noting various peculiarities. He became aware of waves of warm air radiating from the craft, accompanied by the smell of

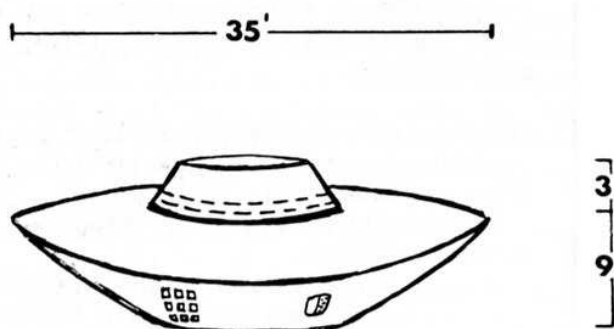


Figure 1: (Illustrations provided by the author). The craft. Figures denote dimensions in feet.

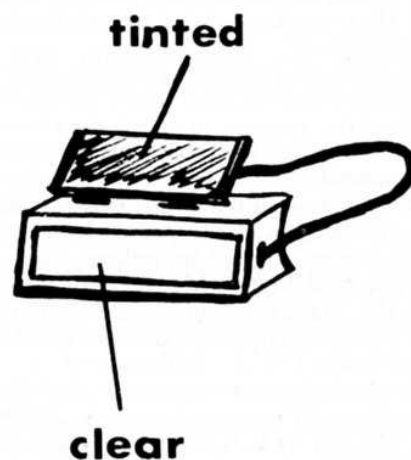
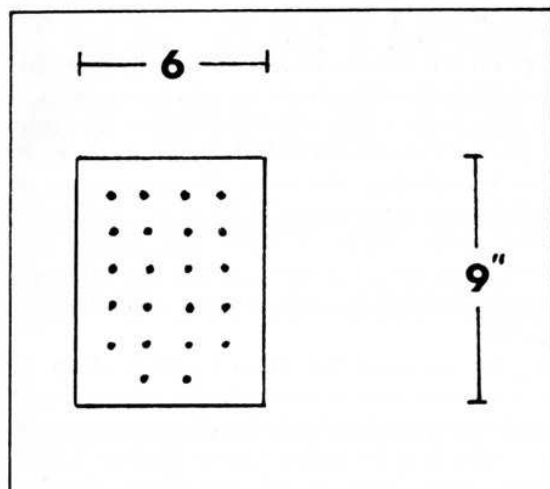


Figure 2: Style of welding goggles worn by the witness.



The dimensions of the slits on the craft, which emitted the lights, were approximately 12 ins x 1½ ins

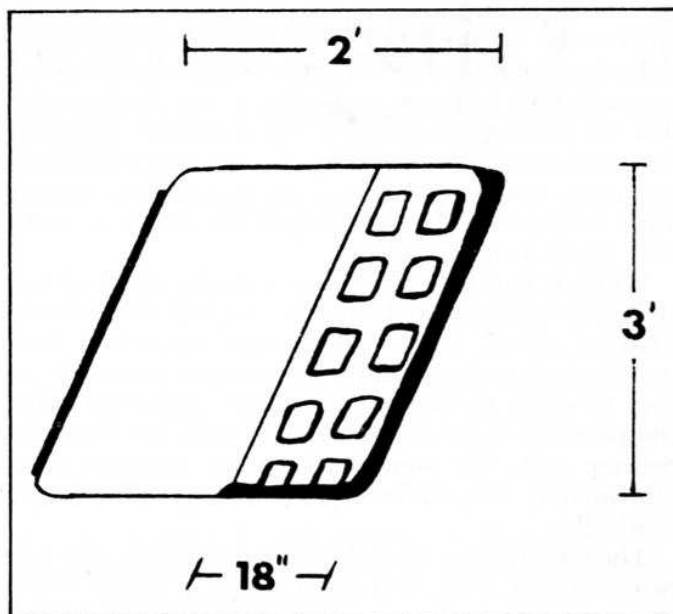


Figure 3 (above): An "exhaust".

Figure 4 (right): The hatch, or doorway.

sulphur. He also heard the whirring of a fast electric motor, and a hissing, as if air was being expelled or taken in by the craft.

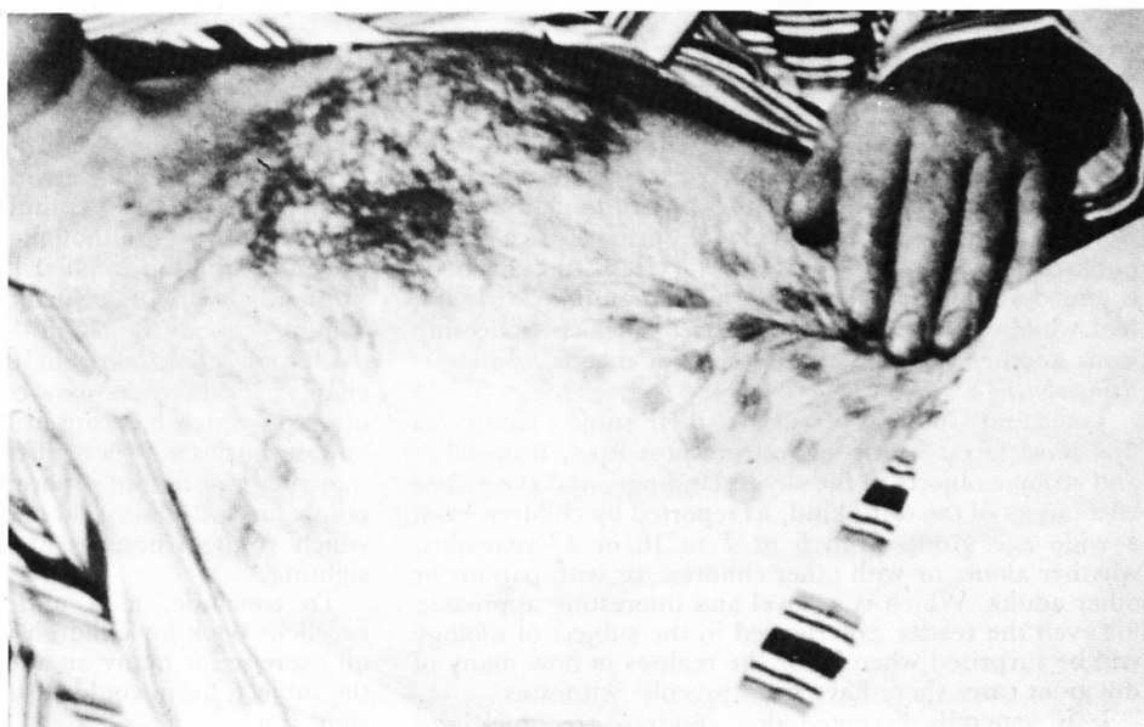
About this time, a door opened in the side of the craft, revealing some lights inside. Michalak approached to within 60 feet of the craft, and it was then that he heard two human-like voices, one with a definitely higher pitch than the other. Having first thought that the craft was some new American experimental airplane, he was now convinced of this, and walked closer to the craft, asking, "Okay, Yankee boys, having trouble? Come on out and we'll see what we can do about it."

Getting no response (the voices had subsided), but being a little flustered, he asked in Russian, "Do you speak Russian?" There was still no answer, so he tried German, Italian, French and Ukrainian, then once again in English.

With this, he walked closer to the craft, ending up

directly in front of it. This close to the craft, the light from it was too much to bear, and so he flipped down the green lenses on his goggles. Poking his head into the opening, he saw a "maze" of lights on what appeared to be a panel, and beams of light running in horizontal and diagonal patterns. There was also a group of lights that were flashing in some sort of random sequence. Michalak stepped away from the craft, and waited to see what reaction his endeavour had produced (as he stepped back, he noted that the wall of the craft was about 18 inches in thickness).

Suddenly, three panels slid over the opening, sealing it totally to the outside. He examined the outside of the craft now, and touched the side of it with his gloved hand, noting that there were no signs of welding or joints; the surface was highly polished, and appeared like coloured glass with light reflecting off it, and made silvery spectra out of the sunlight. Drawing his glove back, he saw that it



Michalak's chest and abdomen are shown, and his burns are quite evident. His left upper chest shows the effects of a severe thermal burn, the hair and flesh being charred, while his abdomen shows the 'checkerboard pattern' of chemical burns.

had burned and melted, as had his hat, which had apparently brushed the side. Unexpectedly, the craft shifted position, and he was now facing a grid-like exhaust vent which he had seen earlier to his left. A blast of hot air shot on to his chest, and set his shirt and undershirt on fire, and also caused severe pain. He tore off his burning garments, and threw them to the ground. He then looked up in time to see the craft depart like the first, and felt a rush of air as it ascended.

When it had left, there was a strong smell of burning electrical circuits mixed with the original smell of sulphur. Looking down, he saw that some moss had been set burning by his shirts, and so he stamped it out. He walked over to where he had left his things, and noticed that his compass was behaving erratically; after a few minutes, it became still. He went back to the landing site, and immediately felt nauseous and a surge of pain from a headache.

The landing spot looked like it had been swept clean (no twigs, stones, etc), but piled up in a circle 15 feet in diameter was a collection of pine needles, dirt and leaves. As he looked around, his headache became worse, he felt more nauseous, and broke out in a cold sweat. Feeling very weak, he vomited; he decided that his prospecting was over for the day, and that he had better head back to the motel. (On the way back, he vomited several times, and he had to stop to regain his strength).

When he finally reached the highway, he found himself to be about a mile from where he had entered the woods, so he started off down the road in that direction. He saw a Royal Canadian Mounted Police car coming towards him, and tried to flag it down, but it passed by, apparently to turn around, because a few minutes later, Michalak heard a voice calling beside him. It turned out to be an RCMP officer, and Michalak told him the story of what had happened. The officer listened, and then told

Michalak: "Sorry, but I have other duties to perform." He then left.

After walking for a few more minutes, Michalak reached the motel, but, thinking he was "contaminated," he did not go in, but rather remained outside in a clump of trees nearby. (A note should be made here about time references; to my knowledge, the next determination of time by Michalak is given as about 4.00 p.m., when he entered the motel coffee shop. I have not found any specification of the time spent at the landing site, though from the references given, I assume it to be slightly over an hour in duration).

At 4.00 p.m., he entered the motel coffee shop to inquire whether or not a doctor was available. He was told that there was no doctor nearby, but that there was one in Kenora, Ontario, which is 45 miles east of Falcon Lake. Michalak decided that instead of travelling further eastward from Winnipeg, he would return home and worry about prospecting when he was feeling better. He went to his room then, where he waited until the next bus to Winnipeg arrived at about 8.45 p.m. He called his wife, telling her that he had had an "accident" and not to worry, but to send their son to meet him at the bus terminal. When he arrived back in Winnipeg around 10.15 p.m. his son immediately took him to the Misericordia hospital. The investigations began.

* * * * *

Editor's comment: It is one of the oddities of ufology that some cases get swept aside for some reason or the other, and afterwards forgotten. It was thus with the Michalak incident, which is why I asked our contributor, after he had submitted his detailed study of the case, to provide this prologue for our readers so that they have a record of the actual event. Mr. Rutkowski's study will be presented in the following issues of FSR.

THE BORDS' NEW BOOK

OUR contributors, and consultants, **Janet & Colin Bord** are the authors of a new book **Are we being watched?** (second title "True UFO sightings by children around the world"), hardcover, 96 pages wide format, price £3.95, published by Angus and Robertson (UK) Ltd. This book is aimed at older children, with an admonition, early on, that while some people think "UFO" means "spaceship from another planet. . .it does not; it means *unidentified flying object*."

Janet and Colin have selected their subject matter so that most facets of the subject are presented, from LITs and strange objects in the sky to landings, and even close encounters of the third kind, as reported by children from a wide age group from 6 or 7 to 16 or 17-year-olds, whether alone, or with other children, or with parents or other adults. Which is a novel and interesting approach, for even the reader experienced in the subject of ufology will be surprised when he or she realises in how many of the great cases there have been juvenile witnesses.

It is generally accepted that children are quick and

objective observers, but in these modern times one should temper such acceptance with the realisation that children also possess easily stimulated and vivid powers of imagination — although it must be granted that deceptions of the implied latter kind are usually "seen through" without difficulty — which raises a little "niggle" about the claim "True" in the second title.

Of particular merit in this book is the penultimate chapter "Where do they come from?" — the ultimate question which has caused heartaches for both ufologists and enthusiasts — for all the *theories* (with the reminder that they are nothing more than that) are detailed, with points for and against them. This leaves a short chapter in which young witnesses are told how to report a UFO sighting.

To conclude, it is underlined that a study of this excellent book for children would be a valuable starting-off exercise for many an adult with a new enthusiasm for the subject, for it would ensure that they commence on the right track.

CHARLES BOWEN

THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT — Part 2

Chris Rutkowski

AS described in the first part of this article, Stephen Michalak claimed that, on May 20, 1967, he was burned by a strange craft, just north of the town of Falcon Lake. Much literature has been published regarding the incident, and an attempt is made to evaluate the findings to date, as well as examine the evidence as it exists.

Introduction

Something happened to Steve Michalak on the Victoria Day long weekend. His amateur prospecting was cut short by an encounter with a landed UFO. To this day, no definite conclusions have been reached regarding his experience, and his story has started to get garbled in publication over the years. Was it a hoax? Was it exactly as reported, and true? The final proof is yet to be found, but there is an astonishing amount of evidence to show that something occurred on a rock outcropping near a swampy area of the forest near the resort.

Michalak's account has appeared in several books and journals in various forms. For accuracy and the best detail, the reader is recommended to obtain Michalak's long-out-of-print book. But barring that, any one of several UFO books carries the story in sufficient quality to understand the case to a good degree, for example, Lorenzen (1969, 1976), Condon (1969), Story (1980) or Bondarchuk (1979). This article is a survey of the literature and the research, and is as accurate as possible, the result of the re-opened investigation of the case by UFOROM (Ufology Research of Manitoba), involving some new evidence and research conducted over the past few years. There is still much work to be done, and many unanswered questions exist which could effectively aid in the determination of truth. It is felt that the Michalak case is one of the most significant on record, and may hold the key for future research.

Physical effects: The site

The Condon Report found cause for concern with Michalak's inability to find the site while in the presence of officials.¹ Michalak went on two expeditions before finding the site with Mr. G. A. Hart, a personal friend. Indeed, Menzel and Taves cite this as a prime reason for labelling the case a hoax.²

However, Michalak has stated that the locating of the site presented several difficulties. First, when the incident occurred, the trees and bushes were devoid of leaves. When he returned to the area, Michalak said, he was disoriented because the leaves were opened.

This is a common complaint of individuals who hike in wooded areas, and can be regarded as a logical reason for experiencing difficulty in finding the site.

In addition, Michalak said that for that first Condon Commission expedition, he was transported to the area by helicopter, and was told to find the site from the anonymous location where they landed.

The second expedition began from a point suggested to be Michalak's exit from the bush following his encounter. Again, it was unsuccessful, due to the leaves' thickening and also Michalak's unsettled state of mind and body.

These explanations by Michalak can be accepted as reasonable, and are sufficiently sensible so as to eliminate a negative judgement on the case based solely on the inability to locate the site with official investigators. Disorientation in the wilderness can definitely be a problem in the locating of specific sites.

There is no question, however, that the site can be easily located when found by trailblazing. The usual method of finding the site is to head north from the Falcon Lake townsite, and follow a creek around large rock outcroppings until the bare rockface is seen. The numerous beaver dams and claims markers in the area can be used as reference points. Also interesting is that the actual site is within direct view of a forest ranger tower. Craig reports that the forest ranger on duty at the time of the incident did not observe either the landing or flight of the UFOs, or the smoke which resulted from the ignition of grass by the landed UFO.³

While this would seem effectively to flaw Michalak's story, one must remember that the individual in the tower would not be looking constantly in the direction of the site. However, the object was landed for at least 45 minutes, and if it gleamed in the sun or emitted an "intense purple light" as it was said to have done, it is puzzling as to why the individual in the tower did not see it.

Another problem that the Condon Report found was the reported direction that the object departed. This direction was 255°, and it is immediately obvious that such a bearing would have the object fly away from most observers. It was noted, however, that the bearing would have the object pass within a mile of the local golf course.⁴ No objects were seen by the golfers, though, again, if the speed of the UFO was great, this is not necessarily unusual. Condon also noted that the northward-opening gap in the trees was inconsistent with the 255° bearing. However, Michalak clearly stated that the object rose vertically before departing, so this argument is not valid.

Barrie Thompson, a CAPRO investigator, was one

of the first to accompany Michalak to the site. He reported that location of the site was not that difficult, and that the early expeditions to the site were led astray by basic errors.

Interestingly, both Thompson⁵ and Michalak⁶ reported a large amount of destroyed vegetation around the site. Thompson even described circular lesions on many leaves in the area (the leaves, he says, were all taken by the government before any civilian analysis could be done).

The Radiation

Much was made of the finding of radioactive debris at the site. This fact alone suggested to many people that Michalak was suffering from radiation poisoning.

The radiation detected was from soil samples brought back to Winnipeg by Michalak and an associate, after they had finally located the site. They had placed Michalak's torn shirt and tape measure in plastic bags, and put these together with the soil samples in the same knapsack. When the items were given to officials for examination, the shirt and tape measure were naturally found to be radioactive as well.⁷

Michalak mentions that Stewart Hunt of the Department of Health and Welfare informed him that the soil analysis "showed radiation."⁸ When Hunt went to the site and checked for radiation, he found "One small area. . .contaminated. . .across the crown at the rock. There was a smear of contamination about 0.5 × 8.0 inches on one side of the crack. There was also some lichen and ground vegetation contaminated just beyond the smear. The whole contaminated area was no larger than 100 square inches."⁹

The origin of this radiation is in some doubt. Whatever its cause, it was of sufficient quantity for the Radiation Protection Division to consider "restricting entry to the forest area."¹⁰ Beyond the areas located by Hunt, there was no radiation above the normal background. But the soil analysis showed a "significant" level of radium 226, for which there was no explanation.¹¹ It was suggested that the radium had come from a luminous watch dial, the dial having been scraped onto the site. However, no evidence could be found to support this contention.¹²

Analyses performed by the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment showed that the radioactivity in the samples was that of "natural uranium ore." This included counts of both alpha and gamma particles. One 190 KeV photo-peak was originally thought to be anomalous, and due to enrichment of uranium 235. While this would seem to indicate something other than natural uranium, the isotopes were found to actually be present within the expected ratios.¹³

To check further on the soil radiation, in June of 1979, a re-analysis was carried out with a lithium-drifted germanium detector at the University of Manitoba. The results showed that all the energies

detected could be adequately explained by the decay of natural uranium.¹⁴ Confusion may have resulted from the overlooking of the fact that U238 decays eventually into radon, a gas. Radon, of course, decays further into other elements, but the observed energies indicated a lower abundance than what would be expected. The reason for this, though simple, may not have been immediately obvious: radon is a gas, and will dissipate. Therefore, abundances of elements later in the decay chain will be much less than if all the previous elements were solids.

Identification of the 190 KeV peak as "abnormally high" may have been an oversight. The theory of radium 226 was related to this peak. Assigning elements to each of the peaks is a trying job, and often, two elements will give the same peak, often at the same intensity. This process is much like a jigsaw puzzle, and is somewhat open to interpretation, as it depends on variables such as the resolution, the efficiency and the capability of the analyser used.

However, while the 190 KeV photopeak is not necessarily unusual, there are two very strong x-rays which are hard to identify. These appear at about 80 and 84 KeV. They may be caused by some radionuclide decay in the U238 chain (possibly by the emitted alpha particle affecting an electron). This, too, depends on abundance and the specific energies involved. Despite this, there is little evidence to indicate that the site was "seeded" with radium from an old watch dial. The observed radioactivity can be considered as due to natural uranium decay.

This, of course, raises the question of why the Department of Health and Welfare would consider closing off the area from such radioactivity. The early tests by individuals at the University of Manitoba are being sought. These would be helpful, since it is possible that at that time (in 1967), there may have been different peaks detected from elements with short half-lives. It will be noted, though, that the Whiteshell results, done in 1968, showed nothing other than was shown in the 1979 run, so this may suggest that the early analysis yielded the same results.

Again, however, there exists disagreement. A CAPRO investigator claims that Hunt's check of the site showed a much higher level of radiation than was reported.¹⁵ It was suggested that the bulk of the radioactive material was in a rock fissure across the site, this being either missed or ignored by official investigators. This is most relevant to a review of the metal analysis.

The metal

The metal is quite curious. A year after his encounter, Michalak returned to the landing site with an associate. With a geiger counter, they found two "W-shaped" silver bars, four and a half inches in length, and several other smaller chunks of the same

material. All this was found two inches under some lichen in a crack in the rock, over which the UFO was said to have hovered. Analysis showed that the silver was of "high purity," and contained low amounts of copper and cadmium. Craig commented that the composition was "similar to that found in commercially available sterling silver or sheet silver."¹⁶ Cannon contradicted this, saying the silver concentration was "much higher than would normally be found in native silver or commercially produced silver such as sterling or coinage."¹⁷ The reported percentage of copper, however, at 1% or 2%, is agreeable with that of commercial silver, though is indeed less than many specimens.

The metal showed signs of heating and bending, and it was speculated that it was "moulded" into its present shape. Support for the heating theory also comes from the fine quartz crystals which were found to be imbedded in the outer layer of the silver. The sand was similar to typical foundry sand, covering all of one bar and half of the other. But the very odd thing about the silver bars was their radioactivity. The bars were also covered with small crystals of a uranium silicate mineral and pitchblende, as well as feldspar and haematite. These particles are held to the silver by a sticky "moist" substance, and could be removed by washing with ethanol and brushing with a soft camel hair brush.¹⁸

Again, the two theories of Ra226 and U238 contrasted each other. But the same arguments apply. Since radium 226 is a by-product of U238 decay, it is even possible that both theories are correct, though traceable to U238.

The problem, however, is not the actual radioactive mechanism on the silver, but why it was missed earlier by other individuals. The Department of Health and Welfare went to the site on more than one occasion, and checked the site thoroughly. Why was the silver not located?

The physiological effects

The most noted elements of the incident are the many severe physiological effects Michalak experienced. When the object took off, Michalak was burned by a blast of heat or heated gas which came from a grill-like opening in front of him. His shirt and undershirt caught fire, burning his upper chest. He tore off these items and stamped them out, not wanting to cause a forest fire. Walking back to where the object had been, he felt nauseated, and had a strong headache. He broke out in a cold sweat, and began vomiting. Red marks began to appear on his chest and abdomen, burning and irritating. He set out for Falcon Lake in search of medical aid, wearing no shirt or jacket.

He eventually made it back to Winnipeg, where he was examined at the Misericordia Hospital. He did

not tell the examining physician what had happened, only that he had been burned by "exhaust coming out of an aeroplane." This was on May 20th.

On the 22nd, Michalak's family physician examined him, and said that the first-degree burns on his abdomen were not very serious. He prescribed 292s for the pain and sea-sickness tablets for the nausea. Michalak went to a radiologist on the 23rd, who found no evidence of radiation trauma. A whole-body count taken a week later at the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment also showed no radiation above normal background. The burns on Michalak's abdomen were diagnosed as thermal in origin. The curious geometric pattern of the burns led some sceptics to speculate that Michalak had fallen onto a "hot barbeque grill."¹⁹

Over the next few days, Michalak reported that he lost 22 pounds from his normal weight of 180. However, his physician could not verify this weight loss, since he had not seen him for over a year. Yet, judging from the fact that Michalak reported an inability to hold food down, in one week, his weight loss could have been considerable.

Also reported was a drop of his blood lymphocyte count from 25 to 16 per cent, returning to normal after a period of four weeks. These two counts were six days apart, but were associated with normal platelet counts on both occasions. This contributes to the

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argument against the theory of radiation exposure. A CAPRO investigator claims that the actual drop was from 25 to 6 per cent, although this is not supported by medical evidence.²⁰

There is some evidence to indicate that the red "welts" or burns went through periods of fading and recurrence, a most unusual medical situation. Because of the suggestion of radiation at the site, it was quickly suggested that the welts were radiation burns. This, however, is quite incorrect.

Radiation was also blamed for the "awful stench" which seemed to "come from within" Michalak's body. It was suggested that a quick dose of gamma rays may have deteriorated the food he had just eaten, giving him a vile odour and causing him to vomit "green bile."²¹ Individuals consulted on this, however, say that such a burst of gammas would have deteriorated Michalak, not just his digested food.

Another physiological effect was the "insect bites" rash which appeared on Michalak's upper torso. Craig reported that the rash was "the result of insect bites and was not connected with the alleged UFO experience."²² An RCAF Corporal, Davis, reported that he had been bitten by black flies when he was with Michalak searching for the site. Medical reports show that Michalak had "skin infections... having hive-like areas with impetiginous centres." Later he had "generalized urticaria" (hives) and felt weak, dizzy and nauseated on several occasions. Several times, he was examined for "numbness" and swelling of the joints.

A haematologist's report showed that Michalak's blood had "no abnormal physical findings," but had "some atypical lymphoid cells in the marrow plus a moderate increase in the number of plasma cells." This is in some contradiction to several sources (e.g. Naud, 1978) which claim that there were "imputities" in Michalak's blood. It is obvious that the reported irregularities in his blood would not in themselves be the cause for his condition.

The swelling of his body, however, strongly suggests an allergic reaction of some sort. After an apparent recurrence of his swelling at work on September 21, 1967, Michalak reported that doctors diagnosed his affliction as "the result of some allergy." The events leading up to this diagnosis had Michalak feel "a burning sensation" around his neck and chest. Then, there was a "burning" in his throat and his body "turned violet." His hands swelled "like a balloon," his vision failed and he lapsed into unconsciousness.²³

Later, he described how sometimes his wrists swelled so much that they filled his shirt cuff.²⁴ What sort of allergy did Michalak have?

* * * * *

Chris Rutkowski's study will be concluded in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review* — EDITOR

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22. Gillmor, p. 320.
23. Michalak, p. 35.

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people who are *clairvoyant* — maybe only temporarily or intermittently. This idea takes us instantly into the field of Parapsychology, which is too vast and too mine-bestrewn for further discussion in the present article. But it is something that we absolutely must always keep in mind whenever considering any UFO sighting whatsoever — including, of course, the report from the lady secretary who was with NATO.)

3. At this point I feel this lady's memory may be playing tricks. For — unless of course there were *two* quite separate sightings of "flying cigars" over Santa Maria in the Azores — the happening to which she here refers is entered in our records as having been on July 9, 1965, and therefore two years *after* her own experience.

The "cigar" or "torpedo" which we have in our documentation passed over the Island of Santa Maria in the Azores on that date at an estimated height of 20,000 ft. and promptly stopped all the electric clocks at the Santa Maria Airport, one report said for twenty minutes, others said for forty-five minutes. (See FSR, Vol. 11, No. 5, p. 24, and Vol. 12, No. 5, p. 32.)

4. Readers will recall the recent experience of the US Army Reserve officer Captain (now Lieut. Colonel) Lawrence Coyne, whose helicopter was on October 18, 1973 put by a UFO into a powered descent of 500 feet per minute and then 2,500 feet per minute, only to be bounced up again into the sky at the rate of 1,000 feet per minute (see Jennie Zeidman's *UFO-Helicopter Close Encounter Over Ohio* (in FSR Vol. 22, No. 4, 1976).

Additional note

Finally, since this NATO lady's account relates to something huge seen over the North Atlantic Ocean, and possibly not too far from Canada, these notes should not be ended without a reminder of one of the most famous cases of all time, that of Captain James Howard who, on June 29, 1954, when piloting his B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser *Centaurus* on a flight to London, flew on a parallel course for eighteen minutes with a vast unknown object which he estimated to be "about the size of an ocean liner." Captain Howard's crew of eleven and a dozen of his fifty-one passengers also saw it, and one of the opinions expressed was that it was "as big as the *Queen Mary*" (one of Britain's two huge pre-war Cunard liners).

This particular UFO does not seem to have been described by anyone as a "cigar" or a "torpedo." It was in fact apparently changing shape in a puzzling fashion, but seems mainly to have looked delta-shaped or "like a telephone mouth-cum-earpiece lying on its back," as indicated in Captain Howard's sketches. It appeared to be accompanied by a Group of much smaller objects which finally seemed to enter it before it vanished from sight. (See *Mystery over Labrador*, by Leonard Cramp, in FSR, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 1955).

* * * * *

Editor's note: The case of the Stratocruiser *Centaurus* is
(Continued on page iii)

THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT — Part 3

Chris Rutkowski

WE saw, in the first part of this article, how Stephen Michalak, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, claimed that on May 20, 1967, he had suffered burns when he encountered a strange UFO which landed on a rocky outcrop near Falcon Lake, a resort close by the boundary between Manitoba and Ontario. In the second part of the article, the various effects — physical, radiation and physiological — were discussed.

The Mayo Clinic

In August of 1968, Michalak went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The purpose of his visit was to undergo tests to determine exactly what was ailing him, as the doctors in Winnipeg appeared to be unhelpful. It is worthy of note that Michalak paid for the Mayo tests entirely on his own, as Medicare would not cover such a trip. He went and stayed at a hotel near the hospital, walking across each day and entering as an outpatient. He reported that he was given a thorough physical and psychological examination by various doctors, then sent home.

But, the problems began. Michalak has bills from the Clinic made out to "Mr. S. Michalak," and also his registration card. He waited for several weeks, but

received no word on his results. The CAPRO investigators appealed to APRO for help, and a medical consultant sent a letter to the Mayo Clinic, asking for the medical reports. In reply, he was sent the now-famous "letter of denial," which bluntly said that Michalak had *never been registered* there, and that they didn't "know anything about him."²⁵

This immediately spurred the shouts of "cover-up!" from individuals who learned of the letter, and rightly so. However, medical ethics is a very serious concern, and few realize the "red tape" which has been set up for both the protection of the doctor and the patient. There is a very great danger in releasing confidential files to unauthorized personnel (and this applies, obviously, to other fields as well, including ufology). Another letter to the Mayo Clinic was sent, this time accompanied by a release form signed by Michalak.

The reports came immediately. Michalak had been found to be in good health, but with neurodermatitis and simple syncope (fainting spells due to sudden cerebral blood pressure losses).²⁶ The syncopes were suggested as having to do with hyperventilation or impaired cardiac output. This is interesting, as Michalak has indeed had heart problems within the past few years.

The psychiatric report showed that despite the

usual generalizations normally assigned to individuals giving a detailed UFO encounter story, there was no other evidence of delusions, hallucinations or other emotional disorders. It seems that there was nothing wrong with Michalak. He had no ailment *directly* related to an encounter with a UFO.

The investigations

Michalak called the *Winnipeg Tribune* late Saturday afternoon of the holiday long weekend. It was not surprising that no one would help him then. But, the next evening (May 21, 1967), Heather Chisvin, a *Tribune* reporter, interviewed Michalak for the first time. She was the first one to talk with him about his experience, and her article must be considered as the first account, uninfluenced by later documentation.²⁷

The first investigator on the scene, however, was Barrie Thompson, who had read the account in the newspaper, and immediately contacted Michalak. Thompson's investigation, on behalf of APRO, began the series of civilian UFO investigations. Michalak notes that "after hearing my story, he stated his belief that the craft was not an earthly creation." Michalak praised Thompson on several occasions, as "he was the first person who took my story seriously."²⁸

Soon the Michalak household was in turmoil. Calls came in at all hours of the day or night, people dropped in at any time, and letters poured in.

The CAPRO investigations included taking Michalak to get a body radiation count, and encouraging him to take other tests. One misleading bit of information said that Michalak had been to a clinical hypnotist and that he had been hypnotically regressed. While both statements are true, the clinical hypnotist had in fact only interviewed Michalak and not put him under. A tape of Michalak's hypnosis is in existence, however, but the session was conducted, apparently, by an amateur, who was a reporter for the *Winnipeg Free Press* at the time.

The Royal Canadian Air Force investigations were under the direction of Sqdn. Ldr. P. Bissky, who came to the conclusion that the case was a hoax.²⁹ He recently remarked that the RCAF conclusions were all available in Ottawa for perusal. Indeed, some documents are contained in the DND files, and have been obtained by several ufologists. A rather carefully-worded statement is in the National Research Council's Non-Meteoritic Sightings File, DND 222, saying, "Neither the DND, nor the RCMP investigation teams were able to provide evidence which could dispute Mr. Michalak's story."³⁰

Royal Canadian Mounted Police analysis from its forensic laboratory was "unable to reach any conclusion as to what may have caused the burn damage" to Michalak's clothing.³¹

A theory came out, suggesting that the radiation found at the site might have been caused by radium

paint, possibly from someone scraping a watch dial around the site.³² This is interesting. Was this just a candid comment, or did it suggest that there was a truly abnormal level of Ra226 at the site at the time? If so, why was it not detected in recent soil analyses?

The Government covers up?

Apart from the Mayo Clinic "cover-up," the Canadian Government seemed to refuse access to information on the incident in 1967. On June 29, 1967, it was reported that Mr. Ed Schreyer, then an MP, asked about UFO investigations in the Commons.³³ The Speaker of the House "cut off the subject without government reply." On November 6, 1967, Defence Minister, Leo Cadieux, stated that "it is not the intention of the Department of National Defence to make public the report of the alleged sighting."³⁴ This was in response to requests by several cabinet members to obtain information on the incident. On November 11, 1967, it was reported that Mr. Schreyer formally placed a written question on the Commons order paper seeking information on UFOs.³⁵

The closed-mouth attitude of the government was not ignored by the press, which printed several comments about it. About the case, one editor noted: "The attempt to keep it concealed can have only one effect — it will give the UFO Legend another boost."³⁶ Of course, he was precisely correct. On October 14, 1968, House Leader Donald MacDonald again refused an MP, this time Mr. Barry Mather, access to reports on the Michalak case.³⁷ However, on February 6, 1969, Mather was given permission by a member of the Privy Council to examine their file on UFOs "from which a few pages have simply been removed." It was reported that outright release of the file "would not be in the public interest," and create a dangerous precedent that would not contribute to the good administration of the country's business.³⁸

Bondarchuk (1979) reports that "portions of the complete government report are available for public scrutiny" at the NRC in Ottawa. However, "noticeably missing are the RCMP study of the burned items, as well as the government's final conclusion, if indeed one exists."³⁹

Psychological effects

Mention of the psychological aspects of the Michalak case must be made. Why, for example, did Michalak call a newspaper office for assistance? This one piece of evidence alone has served to convince some individuals that the case was a hoax and that Michalak was only looking for publicity.

By the time Michalak made it back to his motel, he was exhausted. In his own words:

"I did not go inside the motel for fear of contaminating people around me . . . I felt detached from the

rest of the world . . . The pain was unbearable . . . the odour seemed to come from within me, and I could not escape it . . . I was afraid that I had ruined my health and visualized the resulting hell should I become disabled . . . my mind centred on the possible consequences . . .

" . . . there had to be some way of getting medical attention . . . I thought of the press. Things that happened to me were definitely news, if nothing else . . . I did not want to alarm my wife, or cause a panic in the family. I phoned her as a last resort, telling her that I had been in an accident . . ."⁴⁰

Michalak felt that it was his "duty" to report the incident, and was initially unafraid of ridicule. However, since then, he and his family have become somewhat defensive about the incident, and get irritated to hear of sceptical accounts in print. Indeed, it is this writer's personal impression that Michalak is a very sincere individual. Also, psychiatrists could not find any evidence of emotional or mental illness in the man.

The hoax?

Would Michalak have gone to so much trouble to perpetrate a hoax? There is no question that he became seriously ill, and even today displays some effects. If we can assume that Michalak burned himself while concocting his hoax, would he have then repeatedly pursued medical assistance and go to the Mayo Clinic to make it look good?

One physics professor at the University of Manitoba, now deceased, believed that Michalak was experimenting with toy rockets, which exploded due to mishandling. He also suggested that he was amateurishly trying to hit two chunks of uranium together to make a homemade bomb. The grid-like pattern on his body was caused by the grill he was using as a support. This totally unfounded theory ignored most of the known facts of the case.

An RCAF spokesman is convinced that Michalak was drunk and had fallen on a barbecue grill (one immediate objection to this is that such an act would give exactly the *reverse* impression of burns actually found on Michalak's body).

Menzel's impression has already been related, claiming the case to be a hoax because Michalak could not find the site when with the Condon investigators.

Ray Craig, the Condon Committee's investigator, concluded that:

"If (Michalak's) reported experience were physically real, it would show the existence of alien flying vehicles in our environment."⁴¹

He noted "inconsistencies and incongruities," and said that even with some of the other evidence associated with the case, he would have to stick to his "initial conclusion", namely that "this case does not offer probative information regarding inconven-

tional(sic) craft."⁴²

Despite this apparently negative conclusion, the index of the report lists the case as an *unexplained sighting*.

Craig found reason to question that the metal samples found by Michalak and Hart would have been missed by early investigators at the site. Stewart Hunt of the Department of Health and Welfare described his examination of the area as "a thorough survey," using three different radiation counters. It is definitely odd that the metal chunks were not found until a visit to the site a year later. Thompson remarked that the samples were deeply buried inside the crack in the rock, and that some effort was expended in getting them out. He also remarked that most of the radiation detected was inside the fissure.⁴³

Bondarchuk mentions that a close scrutiny of early soil samples showed that small silver particles were present, citing this as a reason to eliminate the theory that someone "planted" the silver bars.⁴⁴ However, this is not conclusive as native silver particles occur naturally in the area in small amounts, and their presence in the soil samples does not eliminate the possibility of "planting."

Cannon also mentions this information, and that radium 226 was present in both the soil and metal covering. This apparently was considered as a prime reason to negate the watch dial theory.⁴⁵ Attempts to locate the CAPRO analyses have not been successful.

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There is no doubt, though, that the metal samples are very suspicious. They even had an obvious "seam" which tended to suggest fabrication, as if someone moulded the silver in a definite shape. Did Michalak produce these himself? Or, did *someone else* produce them, and plant them at the site? If so, why?

Even without the metal samples, the case was a significant one, needing no support. In fact, the samples tend only to confuse the case. But an amateur UFO "buff" would probably not have realized this, and thought only that the samples would enhance the case. Since the case attracted many such individuals, it would be difficult to determine whom this might have been.

Another theory would involve the "cover-up" scenario, and have the government fabricate the sample themselves. However, evidence for this idea would be difficult to obtain and essentially impossible to prove. If true, this would raise the question of why the government would deliberately enhance the case and then create an aura of secrecy, lending themselves to suspicion.

Other hoax theories can be postulated, but all need the necessary proof, including a motive for their devices.

Conclusions

There is no question that something very unusual occurred on May 20, 1967, north of Falcon Lake. There is no question that Stephen Michalak came back from his prospecting trip badly burned and seriously ill, claiming that he had encountered a strange craft. But is the account true?

Can this case be effectively proved beyond a shadow of a doubt? The evidence includes the following:

1. an eyewitness account of a vehicle behaving in ways not attributable to conventional craft.
2. physiological damage to the witness, the mechanism of which is not immediately obvious.
3. a visible "landing site," consisting of a ring of loose soil, containing a bare patch of rock.

Does this prove that an alien craft landed near Falcon Lake? Unfortunately not. Major problems include the metal samples found at the site and the radium detected (was it in evidence in different samples?). Clearly, the investigations at the time were varied but at the same time were confused, and several bits of information are lacking. All of the CAPRO investigators agreed that Michalak was a very sincere individual, and detected no effort on his part to fabricate the account. This writer found this to be true from his own interviews with Michalak, and found no reason to doubt his veracity.

If we assume that Michalak's story is truthful (and we have no reason immediately obvious to suppose otherwise), then we have a solid report of a landed

UFO, complete with physical and physiological effects. What could it have been?

Keel (1975) suggested that Michalak was a victim of a "game" played by ultraterrestrials, wanting to confuse him in his attempt to locate the site.⁴⁶

Bondarchuk (1979), a proponent of the ETH, describes his analysis by saying that Michalak was burned by "an intelligently guided craft of unconventional structure and of unknown origin." He, too, finds evidence of a government intervention in the case. He also observes that the publication of Michalak's book, which to some suggests a hoaxer's methods, was financially not a successful venture, and the experience proved to be costly to Michalak rather than a boon.⁴⁷

This writer is hesitant to give a final evaluation to the case. Personal interviews with the Michalaks have shown them to be sincere people, and not prone to irrational acts. They are intelligent, level-headed individuals, and well-read on many subjects. Their annoyance at their notoriety is apparent, and their defensiveness at further proddings show that they have been subjected to severe ridicule and criticism since the incident first hit the media in 1967.

Investigations are continuing. If officials were convinced Michalak was a hoaxer, why was he not prosecuted for public mischief? Was there no definite evidence towards this end? It certainly would have been an interesting court case, arguing about the existence of UFOs. I think Michalak would have won.

Epilogue

Today, over thirteen years after his experience, Michalak remains convinced he had encountered something he wasn't supposed to see. His convictions are firmly entrenched. He has read several books about UFOs since 1967, and is still frustrated by not knowing what happened to him. He has been to Carman, Manitoba, where "Charlie Redstar" was a nightly spectre over that town for many months, and heard stories from witnesses of their own experience.

In this writer's experience with UFO investigation, he has found that many UFO witnesses see more than one in a lifetime. That is, if a person sees one UFO, he or she will probably see another at a later time in their life. This is the "repeater" phenomenon which is considered to be an indication of insincerity in witnesses by several ufologists. This author is in disagreement with that belief, as the UFO phenomenon suggests a close link with the individual witness's psyche, possibly involving an "awareness threshold." While this may not be empirically proven or testable, theoretical ufology can only draw on apparent relationships, and there exists some evidence to indicate an association between a witness and the "perceived" UFO.

In this regard, it is interesting to note that Michalak has reported another UFO sighting. It

occurred in northwestern Ontario several years ago, while standing near a lake. He said that he observed "the same thing" as he had seen at Falcon Lake, though at a much greater distance from him, flying through the sky.

Are "they" keeping an eye on him? Or is Michalak simply one of those people who is now encouraged to look skyward for unusual things?

The mystery continues.

* * * * *

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Finally, a word of thanks to my typist, Ms. Charlotte Katz.

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CLASSIFICATION OF LEVELS OF HUMANOID INTELLIGENCE

Ahmad Jamaludin

OVER the years humanoid behaviour has been reported to be largely absurd and sometimes childish in nature. These observations therefore raise an important question — how intelligent are these entities? The excellent mode of propulsion of the UFOs, and their leaps from their points of origin into our physical reality seem to place them many steps ahead of us. But the behaviour exhibited by the entities seems to demonstrate the presence of different levels of intelligence amongst them.

From the hundreds of close contact reports with these entities, where either a one or two-day communication has taken place, we are able to classify their intelligence into different levels, as set out below. These levels of intelligence are based on how they approach human witnesses in trying to convey their message. This classification does not include Adamski-type contact. An entity which is intelligent will find a better way of getting the message to the

percipient when compared to the one who is less intelligent. Based on these, we have therefore come to the conclusion that the levels of intelligence of the UFO occupants can be classed in five different levels. We present this classification, below, with specific examples.

Level 1 — Entities possess telepathic powers. A two-way communication between entities and percipient is possible even though percipient does not have telepathic ability.

November 1957, Aston, England: "...she realised that questions which were racing through her mind were being answered mentally."¹

February 1977, Concord CA, USA: "...suddenly he was in the ship. He asked what was happening and telepathically he was told the aliens were on a mission to study life habits on Earth."²