

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.

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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