

Albany, Oregon Democrat-Herald 12 July, '82

Experts to examine videotape of long creature spotted in bay

BALTIMORE (AP) — A Maryland man says he has a videotape of a 30-foot snakelike creature swimming in Chesapeake Bay, and experts from the Smithsonian Institution plan to examine it.

Robert Frew, a businessman who was trained in wildlife management at the University of Maine, said he filmed the creature on May 31 from his bayside home at Love Point on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"Our conclusions are, number one, it's big, and number two, it sure as hell doesn't belong here," he said.

George Zug, chairman of the department of vertebrate zoology at the

Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, said the largest water snakes and eels common to the bay usually grow no longer than about four feet. He said the videotape will be viewed sometime next month.

A Baltimore-based group that investigates claims of "paranormal" occurrences, the Enigma Project, has examined the four-minute videotape.

"I've heard reports of these sightings — unsubstantiated — back to the 1930s," said one of the group's founders, Mike Frizzell. "Up to this point, it's been a myth."

The creature caught on film was 30 to 35 feet long, Frew said. In girth, he said,

"it's about the size of a good sized person's thigh" — about 10 inches in diameter.

"My mind says it's a snake," Frew said, but the shape of its head — "a little more round than a football" — makes him doubt that hypothesis.