

## TATTLE

### SCARY CREATURE ROAMS VOLGA

Residents of a Volga Village say a huge hairy creature with long arms and small feet "scared the daylight" out of them. But skeptical scientists at a nearby university don't believe their accounts, a Soviet newspaper reported Thursday.

Veterinary surgeon P. Saitov, a resident of the Russian settlement of Kirovo near the Volga river, told the *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* newspaper that he spotted the creature while walking near a pond with his children and a friend.

"It was making huge jumps — not at all like a human being," Saitov said.

Saitov said the group jumped in their car and followed the creature.

"I saw the creature pretty well" he said. "It was about 2 meters (6 ft 7 in) tall, its body covered with dark brown hair, and it had shoulder-length hair. We pursued the creature for about 1,000 meters until it hid in some bushes in a ravine. Being a veterinary surgeon, I can say that the creature was neither human nor an anthropoid ape.

The newspaper quoted "a local hunter" as saying that its footstep "looked rather small for such a tall creature (but) the width of its pace was no less than 2 meters.."

"The hunter believes that no man could have run at such a pace, three or four kilometers (2 m) across a ploughed field," the newspaper said.

But the local residents' descriptions failed to impress

biologists from nearby Saratov University, who "neither take the evidence seriously nor even try to talk with the witnesses," it said.

### CHOPPER RESCUES COW

British farmer Lyndon Wilton called in a British navy helicopter when his cow Tinkerbell fell 180 feet (60 metres) down a cliff to a seawashed ledge.

"It was one of our more difficult cow-lifts," said Lieutenant Doug Seeley, one of the crew who flew mother-to-be Tinkerbell to safety.

Tinkerbell took the plunge at Rame Head, in the southwestern English county of Cornwall. Fishermen spotted her at the cliff bottom and alerted Wilton who climbed down and spent the night with her on the ledge.

Coastguards could not get a boat near enough to rescue Tinkerbell on Tuesday and, as the tide came in, they called the navy.

A veterinary surgeon helped Wilton lead Tinkerbell into the water so the helicopter had room to manoeuvre, then tranquilised the animal.

A crew member was winched down, put a net round Tinkerbell and attached a cable. The helicopter lifted her back to the cliff top, none the worse for her brief flight.

"We do this two or three times a year when cows are trapped at the bottom of cliffs," Seeley told Reuters. "No, the navy doesn't charge for it — it's good training."

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### Red menace

A HAIRY ape-like creature over six feet tall terrified villagers in the Volga river area of Russia, who saw it taking huge leaps across a field.

DO NOT SMILE  
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SPOTTED THIS ON THE WAY BACK FROM  
EASTERN TURKEY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.  
AM FINISHING BOOK ON MEANING OF CELESTIAL  
MYTHOLOGY - SHOULD BE OUT NEXT YEAR.  
NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK, THE BIG DIPPER AND YOU, JUST  
OUT NOW. Ed Krupp, Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles.