



Dead Of Night Magazine



Issue 5 : Apr '95

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MYSTERIOUS
LAKE
MONSTERS
SPECIAL !!!

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X-FILES
EPISODE
GUIDE:
Part 1**

**The Beasts
Of
Bala And
Gwaenysgor**

On The Track Of Unknown Welsh Animals.



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Plus ...
The Turin Shroud, Chasing The Unknown,
African Witchcraft, UFO Update, and more !!

**Merseyside's Only Publication Dealing With All
Paranormal Phenomena !!**

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Dead of Night Magazine does not subscribe to any one belief system.

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Editorial

This month Lee takes a break from the editorial to concentrate on the rest of the magazine (and as you can see, there's a hell of a lot of it). As I was chosen to write a few words in his place I thought long and hard about what I could use as my subject. I decided that a brief insight into the (twisted) personality of the Editor himself might be appropriate! Just kidding Lee!!

Having chosen my subject I reviewed the month to find an appropriate incident which might allow me to achieve my goal. There have been several of note, from the highs of preparing for a trip to Loch Ness, to the lows of returning to work after the trip. However, one incident exemplified, more than any other, why Lee created the magazine in the first place.

Last month he had received a request from Leicester for a copy of the latest issue. Upon sending that copy he received a cheque for subscription from, what turned out to be, a 14 year old lad who had saved his money and drawn the cheque on his mother's bank account. The letter was extremely complimentary about the magazine. Lee's reaction to this was more enthusiastic than any of the good reviews the magazine has received. There is one simple reason for this - when Lee set the magazine up it was to introduce as many people to the paranormal as possible, inclusive of all age ranges.

It left me thinking that at the same early stage, all of us who have an interest in the weird things that happen usually 'catch the bug' in much the same way as our young subscriber. It's only by competing with Nintendo, Sega and the rest of the mindless junk which tempts modern youngsters that we can ensure that there are going to be future generations who still ask questions and still seek their own answers. This month, if only in a very small way, Lee has hopefully contributed to that future.

P.W.

U.F.O

HAVE YOU HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH A U.F.O OR ITS OCCUPANTS?

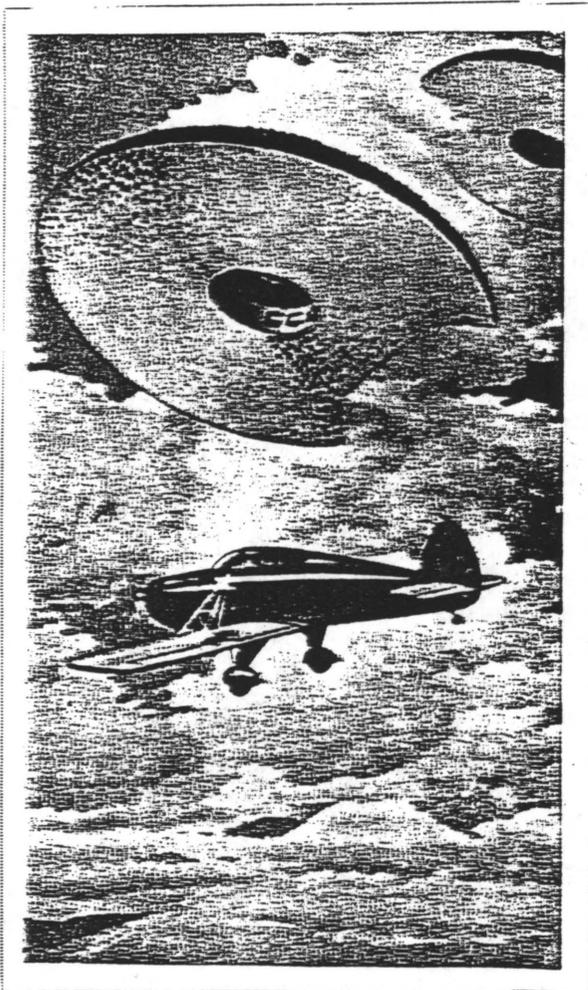
IF YOU HAVE THEN WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

WRITE TO:-

THE ELLESMERE PORT U.F.O STUDY GROUP,
76 LOXDALE DRIVE,
ELLESMERE PORT.
L65-7AN.

NEW MEMBERS WHO WISH TO MAKE A SERIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF U.F.O'S AND ABDUCTIONS ARE

WELCOME TO APPLY.



WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Roy Kerridge scans the African press for the latest reports of magic and witchcraft

Ancestor worship in Africa still continues side by side with Christianity. My North Ghanaian pen-friend, A. Anabilo tells me that when he got good marks at school, his playmates jokingly accused him of sacrificing two cocks at his ancestor's shrine.

Newspapers he sends me from Ghana are filled with Tales of the Supernatural, all reported as true. Paganism and Christianity are drawing closer, together, and why not? There is no reason why they should be forever opposite. In England, atheists sometimes jokingly say "I'm a pagan" meaning "I have no God". But African pagans have a superfluity of gods, far beyond the Christian Three in One. "Paganism" in the African sense simply means "traditional religion". It should not be used as a derogatory term.

As it is used as such, particularly by African Christians, the pagans whose designs are reported in A. Anabilo's newspapers have asked to be called "Godians". They share the notions of a "Supreme Being" and of the power of prayer with Christianity. But the word "Godian" seems unlikely to catch on at present.

One news-story told of a Christian woman who has been summoned at night by the hand and led her to the "womb of the lake", a kingdom under the water, where she met many dignified people, some with fish's tails. Returning to land, the goddess told the woman to make a shrine by the waterside. When the woman demured, the goddess said "Becoming my servant, at my shrine, should cause no conflict with your Christian beliefs".

Finding this to be true, the woman became a priestess with a dedicated following. Women helpers guard her body when she has left in a trance to journey to the people in the lake.

The Ghanaian "Mirror", a paper not dissimilar to its English namesake, once (in September, 1989) carried a headline "Girl Priest Returns to Dwarfs". A photograph showed a wide-eyed maiden in a grass skirt performing a "fetish dance".

Here is a part of the report, by reporter Dwamena Bekoe.

"True to her promise that she would return to the "dwarf land" for the third time, to fortify her powers, twenty year old Afua Tabisi has disappeared once again and is believed to have gone to the mystery world of the supernatural powers. On her first disappearance, in 1985 when Afua was seventeen, she spent three weeks in the mystery world. In 1986, she disappeared for eleven days. It is not known how long she will be away this time.

"Aufa's disappearance was noticed last Tuesday morning by elders of the shrine when she was not found in her bedroom. In her place was a white egg on a large green leaf on a red calico bedsheet, with powder sprinkled on the bed and in the room. The door to her room was tightly locked from within. The traditional priestess Afua Tabisi was a pupil of the Seventh Day Adventist Middle School. At the age of seventeen she was said to have been mysteriously taken away by dwarfs, in August 1985, for three consecutive weeks.

"On this latest occasion, the chief linguist of the shrine, Okyeame Kwame Sasu, also narrated his version of the story and said, for some time now the fetish priestess kept telling them of her impending visit back to the dwarf land for supernatural powers. In anticipation of this, she, for the past two weeks, stopped sleeping with children in her room, upon instructions of the gods.

"......Meanwhile, the police of Kiforidua have been informed and the elders of the shrine and the town are keeping vigil, waiting for her arrival, which is unknown".

Pygmies, now supposed to live only in the Congo, may once have dwelled in all the rain forests of West Africa. Rumours of pygmies (or "dwarfs")

Fetish priestesses and others give their views on Dipo, most of them approving of the custom, but some deploring the fact that candidates today often include girls as young as two years old. Such toddlers are excused training in cooking and housework, and so, it is said, grow up to become unsatisfactory wives. They are sent to Dipo so early in life because their parents see the ceremony as a protection against schoolgirl pregnancies. Nana Kloweki, the first "Dipo" priestess, received a vision in the early eighteen hundreds, in which she was shown the Cross of Christ and was told by a Heavenly voice that the Cross would overcome her cult. Missionaries arrived later and called for an end to the "Dipo". Not everyone has obeyed that call, for "Dipo" continues.

In a distant echo of this tradition, the children of Western evangelicals are often urged to be "saved" and baptised at the earliest age possible, to protect them from Satan. Teenage girls, in the West Indies, are often fiercely turned out by their parents if they become pregnant.

My pen-friend A. Anabilo told me that he would often get into trouble with his Aunt for absent-mindedly referring to her twin boys as "they" instead of "he". The whole family tried to keep up an elaborate pretence that the two boys were one, in case the spirits overheard. If the spirits realised that "the boy" was actually two twin boys, great evil might have befallen the family. Before missionaries arrived in the district, twins had been put to death. As a naughty boy, A. Anabilo would often walk behind a pregnant woman and then suddenly overtake her. Such behaviour was said to change one baby into two, and cause the woman to give birth to twins.

Usually the woman would shout angrily, and my future pen-friend would laugh and run away. One day, however, a mother-to-be, when overtaken in this way, lay down in the road and sobbed bitterly. Anabilo, her tormenter, felt ashamed and never tried the trick again. Mixed with his remorse were fears that God would send him to Hell for his crime.

"Oddly enough, in South Ghana, twins are considered to be lucky", he added, in a postscript.

My own local paper in London, the other week, showed a picture of Ghanaians "hooting at hunger", led by a "fetish priest". This custom, the reporter claimed, had begun during a famine long ago. A fetish priest had urged the people to hoot as loudly as possible, to frighten away the evil famine-spirits. Everyone promptly hooted, the spirits fled and the earth became fruitful once more.

This report would have seemed less incongruous if it had appeared in the Ghanaian "Mirror", rather than in the "Willesden and Brent Chronicle". It seemed odd to think of fetish priests inciting my fellow Londoners to hoot.

Nigerian newspapers on sale in London (mostly in the East End) also carry reports of magical goings-on, narrated in a matter-of-fact style. Despite being warned by her Mother, a girl urinated near a goddess's shrine and was struck dead on the spot. An "agony aunt", supposedly a white American, advised most of her correspondents to fast for nine days, burning a candle every day. Such advice might be given by the leader of many a West Indian or African church in England. Nine is a magic number everywhere in the world. "Aunt Mary" advised one woman to improve her luck by giving money to the first nine beggars she met.

"You have been cursed by someone you know", a barren woman was informed.

"I am one of my husband's four wives", a woman wrote in to say. "In the last five years, I have had four children. Lately I have been unwell..." Like a flash, the appalling Aunt replied "You are pregnant, but the baby will die. You must have an abortion. If you are in further doubt, see a native Doctor".

A diet of such literature eventually induces in me a feeling of being trapped in a doom-laden fog of error and intrigue, in a world that borders on the Land of the Insane. The English equivalent, an astrology star-sign column, seems by comparison to be Sweet Reason itself.

CHASING THE UNKNOWN

THE LATEST WEIRD AND WONDERFUL NEWS STORIES
CULLED FROM THE PAGES OF THE DAILY PRESS...

SIGNS OF THE 'END TIMES'?

The likes of Gordon Michael-Scallion (the North American self-styled 'Prophet Of Gloom'), and a host of other Nostradamus wannabes would no doubt ascribe the apparent increase in Millennium cult activity and occult related murders - not too mention the upsurge in religious phenomena/weird weather/earthquakes/astronomical anomalies etc, to their oft-repeated predictions that Armageddon is just around the corner. Ordinarily, I would dismiss such rhetoric as the rantings of fanatical nutcases...But in the wake of the gas attacks in Japan and the tragic car-bombing in Oklahoma City, I'm not so sure. Those distant green hills are starting to look mighty appealing...

12th May 1995 Thretford, Norfolk. 'Today'.

Tragic mother thought devil was chasing her



Clinton, aged 4, in his school's Nativity play

THE tragic mother who killed her three children and then took her own life believed she was possessed by the Devil.

Her mind warped by dabbling in the occult, Joy Senior thought she was protecting the youngsters from evil by stabbing them to death.

"She killed herself and felt it was her duty not to leave them behind," said pastor Bernard Holford who counselled Joy.

Her obsession with witchcraft began when Joy fell under the spell of a boyfriend she called her "angel of light".

A week before the tragedy she asked the pastor to drive out "evil forces"

'She killed children to protect them'

by NICK CRAVEN

from the terraced house where she murdered her three children.

Kurtis, seven, Cherelle, five, and three-year-old Clinton bled to death in a bedroom after being repeatedly stabbed in the chest.

Joy drowned in a pond four miles away after trying to cut her throat and slash her wrists.

Mr Holford, 37, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, saw Joy half a doz-

en times in the fortnight before her death. On his last visit she asked him to perform an exorcism at her home in Thretford, Norfolk.

Mr Holford stressed he did not believe Joy or her house were possessed, but that she was mentally ill.

He and other friends repeatedly tried to persuade her to see a doctor.

Illness

Mr Holford said: "She was showing signs of illness for months, withdrawing from her friends and in the last few days that illness



Cherelle at school funday

mental abnormality." He denied suggestions that Joy's involvement with the Adventists, who have 18,000 British members, encouraged her horrific deeds.

Jamaican-born Joy's parents, brothers and sisters



FATHER KILLS MUM AND SON AT WORLD END

A devoted dad and ex-soldier named Alan Conney saw in the stars that the world was going to end the very next day. As a result of this 'prophecy', he decided to kill his five year old son and his own mother to 'save them both from evil'.

Conney strangled his mother with his bare hands, and choked his son with a tie but later told the police he loved them so much. He claimed that he simply wanted them to die peacefully before the end of the world the following day.

Cooney, 29, sat weeping in the dock at Liverpool Crown Court as the tragedy of the killings was told. He denied murder but wound up pleading guilty to unlawful killing on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

A day before the killings, Cooney had told a cousin he had consulted the stars and predicted there was going to be 'upheaval and death'. Witnesses told the court of his obsession with Astrology. Police found a Tarot card and two love notes, one saying 'Victory' and the other 'Yvonne (Cooney's estranged wife) join our love@'.

17th May 1995. Birkenhead, Merseyside. THE WIRRAL GLOBE.

WEeping ICONS:

An Italian bishop requested that he be allowed to carry a plaster Madonna in a Good Friday procession after he claimed it cried blood whilst in his hands. The church authorities were not convinced of the authenticity of the phenomena however, and decreed that the ceremony depends upon whether an investigation had been carried out in time. Prosecutors have apparently launched a fraud probe into the Madonna Of Civitavecchia, a port north of Rome. Forensic pathologists have determined samples of the liquid to be the blood of a male human. Further tests are planned. We await the results with interest.

7th April 1995. Civitavecchia, Italy. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'

seemed to flare up.

"Something must have caused her to flip - a spasm of madness."

Mr Holford, himself a father of three, was shaking as he told of 29-year-old Joy's drowned last days.

The pastor is convinced Joy's obsession stemmed from her relationship with the boyfriend she split from at Christmas.

Mr Holford said: "He had some sort of control over her. I suspect this relationship led to some type of

were all members of the church but Joy lapsed as a teenager.

Mr Holford said: "We believe in life. We are not a church that encourages people to commit murder."

As soon as he heard of the killings he contacted police about his knowledge of Joy's problems.

The children's father David Porter, who split from Joy four years ago, visited her brother Glen yesterday, but refused to comment.

BLOOD FROM A MOAN

Angry archbishop Michele Giordano ordered 3,000 worshippers to pray harder when they failed to turn the dried blood of San Gennaro, Naples' patron Saint into liquid a week ago. Yeaterday they returned...And the ticking off worked.

Just sa well really. Neapolitans have believed for 600 years that disaster will strike the city if the miracle doesn't happen twice a year.

9th May 1995. Naples, Italy. 'DAILY EXPRESS'.

ASTROLOGICAL ANOMALY

Oxfordshire milkman Tony Newman has claimed he saw a rainbow by moonlight outside Abingdon early on Febraury 15th.

The sight is so rare it has even managed to escape the attention of 'mythmakers, but seeing ss how rainbows by day have always been regarded as good luck omens, perhaps seeing nocturnal ones should be regarded as warnings.)

The very next day, the country was swept by gales.

The halo of coloured lights often seen around the Moon is caused by the reflection of Moonlight through a faint covering of cloud.

It's often a sign of rain.

22nd March. 1995. Abingdon, Oxford. "DAILY EXPRESS"

BRITAIN HIT BY QUAKES

A spate of minor earth-tremors has shook the British Isles over last few months (see various back issues of 'DEAD OF NIGHT' for earlier reports), the latest of which occured directly in the heart of England at the tail end of last year...

It measured 1.5 on the Richter Scale and had anxious callers telephoning the police with reports of crockery, pictures and windows being shaken.

27th November 1995. Mansfield, Notts. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.



....And, just a few months later in Staffordshire, Fred Lees was left pondering as to the cause of the collapse of his house where he had lived for 30 years. The building was reduced to a pile of rubble in a matter of seconds.

Old mine workings, dodgy foundations and the possibility of an earthquake were all forwarded as feasible explanations. Fred takes up the story;

"I was on the settee doing the crossword at 10:20 in the morning. There was no warning or anything. It just came crashing down. I looked up and could see the

sky. One gable leaned against the house next door. The other one came down through my bedroom. If I'd been in bed, I'd have been a dead 'un."

Mr Lees escaped with a gashed hand and a covering of soot, by crawling out through the ruins of his kitchen. The house collapsed on March 28th, a few weeks after a series of minor earth tremors. Wobbles and shakes in the heavily mined north district of Staffordshire are monitored by the Geology Department at Keele University nearby.

Did a quake cause Mr. Lees house to topple?

Calum Baker, a seismologist stated that he looked at results at the time of the collapse but could not say whether a tremor had caused it.

24th April 1995. Kidsgrove, Staffordshire. 'THE GUARDIAN'.

A mystery power surge rocked a Cornish village showering the residents with sparks as TV sets and fridges blew fuses...No explanation was forthcoming from the authorities...

9th April 1995. Gunnislake, Cornwall. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.

MORE 'CULT' NEWS FROM PARANOID AMERICA



The Oklahoma tragedy has shown that America's liberty lobby is no longer just part of the lunatic fringe.

Between the combative rhetoric of the newly populist Republican Party and the lethal fringe of white supremacists, neo-nazis and gun nuts lies a wide and confused Twilight Zone that includes former members of the Ku-Klux-Klan and senators in Congress who are now trying to push through a bill to lift the ban on assault weapons.

The Zone is stalked by paranoid fantasies that the Clinton Administration has conspired to take away the people's guns and bring in Russian troops in United Nations uniform to impose a one-World government.

Their pamphlet and newsletters are filled with typically shadowy photographs of Russian military vehicles on US railroads, T-72 tanks spotted on a Florida road, Russian HIND-D attack helicopters over Mississippi.

"Is America on the verge of war," asks the journal 'SPOTLIGHT', one of those found in the wake of the FBI raid on James Nichol's remote Michigan farm, where Terry McVeigh practised making bombs. "Is a national emergency about to be declared, and America placed under martial law? Is America on the brink of foreign occupation by military troops under United Nations control? And why are foreign military troops training alongside American local police forces?"

'SPOTLIGHT' is published by the Liberty Lobby, a group which claims the collapse of the Soviet Union was a ploy to

lull America into a false sense of security, ready for the New World Order to be imposed.

The latest issue of "TAKING AIM" ("the militiaman's news-letter") claims it is all a Soviet plot.

They quote Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations in 1988.

"Further global progress is now possible only through a quest for universal consensus in a movement toward a New World Order".

The militias stretch out to the shores of the American far right. They include the Ku-Klux-Klan, the new white supremacist group called Aryan Nation, and a host of others. Rooted in anti-Semitism, that the so-called New World Order is simply the vehicle for control of America by "international bankers" - by which they mean, of course, the Jews...

29th April 1995. Oklahoma City. 'THE GUARDIAN'.

FIRST OZONE HOLE FOUND OVER THE ARCTIC

Tim Radford
Science Editor

FOR the first time, scientists have detected a "hole" in the ozone layer over the Arctic and northern Europe.

Ozone, a form of oxygen, acts as a high-altitude atmospheric screen against cancer-causing ultraviolet light. But at some altitudes this spring, levels have been 50 per cent below any previously observed.

Ozone, under assault from man-made chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs), is destroyed steadily but undramatically all year. But the latest research - the Second European Stratospheric Arctic and Mid Latitude Experiment, or Sesame - has focused on a winter weather phenomenon known as the Arctic vortex.

This is a wind system which traps a "cauldron" of atmosphere through the polar night. Inside the cauldron, chlorine-based CFCs build up. Although the chemistry of the ozone destruction is complicated, its ingredients are intense cold, ice particles, chlorine and sunlight. Hence a polar vortex that survives into the spring supplies all of these things.

In the Antarctic vortex the springtime destruction of ozone is on a huge scale, and its consequences have changed life dramatically for Australians and New Zealanders, who now get warnings about exposure to the sun during normal weather forecasts. The estimate is that two out of three Australians are likely to develop some form of skin cancer in the course of their lives.

For several years, meteorologists and atmospheric chemists have watched in alarm as a similarly explosive mixture to the Antarctic vortex has been assembled in the Arctic. But in previous years the wind patterns have changed and the vortex has broken up before wholesale destruction could begin.

This spring it happened. Although the destruction is considerably less than that in the



Antarctic, Dr John Pyle, a Cambridge scientist involved in co-ordinating European research, says: "There is definitely a region where there is a big bite out of the ozone. There ought to be, in some layers of the atmosphere, half as much ozone again. So it's a pretty significant signal."

CFCs have been used as refrigerants, to inflate foams, and as cleansers in computer component manufacturing. In the stratosphere a molecule of CFCs can survive for long periods and destroy thousands of molecules of ozone. However, in the 1980s an international agreement began limiting the production of CFCs.

At present, Dr Pyle believes people in northern Europe and Scandinavia are at no particular risk from the extra ultraviolet radiation getting through the damaged ozone screen. "I don't want to underplay the dangers of skin cancer, but I don't think this in itself is going to cause lots of extra harm. What it does show is that had we continued to put these CFC compounds into the atmosphere at the rate we were doing, and had there been no international agreement to control them, then it's abundantly clear things in the north could have got as bad as the south," he said.

"It's a damn good job we have put something in place."

April 1995. The Arctic. 'THE GUARDIAN'

DAYS OF STRANGE FORTUNE: 1 WHEN FATE SMILES DOWN

The good luck charm of Glen Nevis

LEGEND HAS it that back in the mists of time, a chieftain of the Sliochd Shomhairle Ruaidh, the clan which later became the Camerons, won a decisive battle in Glen Nevis.

To mark his victory he placed a massive stone at the entrance to the glen, the Clach Shomhairle.

The legend says that on one day every year the 50-tonne stone spins round slowly three times, and anyone who asks a question before the stone stops moving will have their query answered.

It's also said that if you walk round the stone three times on the day it turns, it will grant you a wish.

The stone has always been a good luck charm for the Fort William area.

But 20 years ago it was decided that the road through Glen Nevis should be straightened, and the Wishing Stone was moved 50 yards.

Since then, disaster after disaster has befallen the area.

First the Corpach pulp mill closed, with hundreds losing their jobs.

Many small shops and businesses also went out of business.

And for years now unemployment in the area has been getting steadily worse.

Jinx

Many of the locals opposed the moving of the stone in 1977 and they were beginning to think that shifting it had put a jinx on the area.

Regional councillor Ian MacDonald started a campaign to have the stone returned to its rightful place.

He was successful, and Lochaber Forest Enterprise decided to move the stone back to its original site.

Earlier this month a giant crane lifted Clach Shomhairle back home where it belongs, so locals now hope that their spell of bad luck is finally over.

And on the very day the stone moved it started to snow, and the ski-ing business has been booming ever since!

2nd April 1995 Glen Nevis, Scotland. 'SUNDAY POST'.

A NARROW ESCAPE

An anorexic teenager tried to kill herself by lying in the path of an oncoming express train. Normally this would be a pretty sure-fire way of popping one's cork...The train only had an 11 inch ground clearance. But, after the train had roared over her prostrate body, she emerged with nothing more serious than a few minor grazes. It turned out she was SO thin, the train all but missed her completely.

The train-driver was quoted as saying "It's a miracle she's still alive. She even lifted her head to watch the train coming"

20th April 1995. Hannapes, France. 'DAILY SLUR'.

Superstitious Helen Sanger decided to visit a plastic surgeon after she was told by a Palmist that her life would be short and unhappy.

The surgeon gave her a longer life-line, a happier heart-line, and put her IN line for a fortune.. Helen was moved to say; "Every Palmist told me I faced disaster. But when I came out of the surgery, my life had changed."

It certainly DID!!!

She is healthy and content and has recently learned she is to inherit a million dollars.

19th February 1995. Duluth, Michigan. 'SUNDAY EXPRESS'.

A COUPLE OF GHOSTLY TALES.

The owners of a chippy have been forced to call in a priest to bless their haunted take-away. According to witnesses, tables have moved, floors creaked and the radio turned itself on at 'The Smuggler's Rest' in Cornwall.

26th November 1995. Delabole, Cornwall. 'TODAY'.



Brave youngsters agreed to spend the night in a haunted house to help raise money for 'Comic Relief'.

They stayed at Vale House, New Brighton, a location about which there are various tales, although perhaps the most famous is the murder of Edgar Holland who lived there about a hundred years ago.

He was shot by Kathleen Kenshaw, a woman he had promised to marry, after she discovered he had changed his mind.

There are no details of any Supernatural encounters experienced by any of the kids who stayed the night.

13th March 1995. New Brighton, Merseyside. 'LIVERPOOL DAILY POST'.

Housing chiefs have finally agreed to move a family after a terrified mother convinced them her house was haunted.

Christine Chambers used a medium and a vicar to help her battle to prove an Evil Spirit was terrorising her four children. She claims an Invisible Assailant pushed two of them down a flight of stairs.

Researchers have discovered that the house was built upon Saxon burial ground.

April 1995. Horton Kirby, Kent. 'TODAY'.

The offices of the Staffordshire Building Society in Kidderminster is reputed to be haunted by the ghost of a woman who appears to be dressed in 17th Century clothes. The staff at the office have nicknamed her 'Polly' because she seems to like putting the kettle on...

28th April 1995. Kidderminster. 'TODAY'

According to the 'ever-reliable' Sunday papers, the spirit of Ena Sharples (Violet Carson) is haunting the set of the man-land soap. A team of (ahem) 'Ghostbusters' are said to be investigating a series of spooky goings on at the Granada TV set.

And that's not ALL folks!!!

Other dead stars are also rumoured to be walking abroad.

The ghosts of Pat Phoenix (Elsie Tanner) and Jack Howarth (Albert Tatlock) are being blamed for the mysterious movement of items at the infamous 'Rovers Return'.

Tins and packets of food have also inexplicably fallen from shelves at Reg and Maureen's corner shop.

Apparently, Ghost hunter Angela Conway plans to set up 'Ghost-sensitive equipment' outside 'The Rovers'.

9th April Manchester. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.

DAYS OF STRANGE FORTUNE: 2 WHEN YOUR LUCK'S OUT...

Jenny Ball had the terrible misfortune to sneeze as she was parking her car, and such was the force of the sneeze that she lost control of the vehicle momentarily causing her to smack into the two cars in front of her. Panicking, she reversed into a third car which duly braked and another seven piled up...Insurers later stated that Jenny's sneeze will cost £90,000 in damages.

19th April Ottawa, Canada, 'DAILY SLUR'.

Bride Belinda Street was walking down the aisle toward her intended when she suddenly tripped over her flowing wedding dress and broke her neck. She died instantly.

Her fiancé, Lowell Burke, was understandably devastated, and was moved to say; "One minute I was standing there waiting to say I do. The next, the woman I love was lying dead on the floor".

20th March 1995. Adelaide, Australia. 'DAILY SLUR'.

Clumsy DIY fan Hans Pender suffocated when he got entangled in 60 feet of thick wallpaper and couldn't struggle free.

Police Detective Peter Dieker said that "The more he struggled the tighter the paper wrapped him up - until finally his oxygen supply was cut off and he died an agonising death".

Killer Kevin Sharman thought he'd escaped justice after stabbing his wife - but he hadn't reckoned on Divine Intervention...He was struck dead by lightning as he fled the murder scene...

8th May 1995 St. Petersburg, Florida. 'NEWS OF THE WORLD'.

THE CURSE OF SOUTH UIST

THE PROPHECY OF DOOM SURROUNDING A CENTURIES-OLD CLAN GRAVESTONE HAS COME CHILLINGLY TRUE

Did an ancient curse claim this man's life?

By Deborah Sherwood and Julian Newman

FOR generations, the Hebridean islanders of South Uist feared the legendary curse of the Lords and Kings of Clanranald.

Ancient folklore, widely accepted to this day by the people of the tiny island, has it that anyone who desecrated the clan's ancient gravestone would be doomed to an early death.

Today many of South Uist's 1,800 population believe the curse has struck.

They say it is responsible for the death of Lawren Maben, a young Canadian who defied the legend and made off with the Clanranald stone, carrying it to his home in London as a bizarre souvenir.

On the island the stories are strange and chilling.

Ever since the stone disappeared, there has been talk of killed ghosts dancing in the clan's historic burial field. Spirits with broadswords have been seen, apparently looking for the stone.

Maben took the 400-year-old stone one night five years ago. Somehow he managed to manhandle its three hundredweight bulk into his car and, via the erratic island ferry, drove it 600 miles to his home.

Maben, who dabbled in the art world, later moved addresses three times around central London, ending up living near Euston Station. Each time, the stone moved with him.

THEN seven weeks ago he died in his sleep, just feet from the stone, at the age of only 33. When he was found he had been drinking heavily and, says a coroner's officer, there was a "foam-like substance" coming from his mouth.

An inquest will be held later this month.

The death has unsettled the islanders.

"Since the stone was removed, ghosts wearing strange garb appeared at dusk around the burial ground," says Neil MacMillan, chairman of the South Uist Historical Society.

"They moved around as if they were looking for the stone.

"Local legend handed down by word of mouth says death or bad luck would come to anyone who



PRECIOUS STONE: Lawren Maben (left) took the stone. Cathy Haith (right) of the British Museum recognised the monument

removes the stone. The Curse of Clanranald will follow that person. That lad was here and the stone turned up in his house. He is now dead."

Maben's father David, a social worker from Ontario, Canada, says: "He didn't think he had done anything wrong. He told us a few years ago he had been on holiday up there one Christmas and fell over a stone in a field.

"He said he dragged it for 10 hours to put it in the car. He brought it back home. I have no idea how he managed to carry it. The stone then sat in the hallway of his flat."

David Maben first saw the stone when he came over to London after his son's death. He realised it might have some historical significance and went to the British Museum with a photograph of the field where the stone was found.

Cathy Haith, curator of medieval antiquities at the museum, had the stone brought in and recognised its Scottish provenance from the engraved coat of arms including a lion, a galley, a hand and the ancient Castle of Clanranald.

"I could see it was an important antiquity," she said. "I looked at the photo and, from the tombstones and ruins of a church, I suspected it was a listed monument that had been illegally removed."

Now there are plans for the stone to be taken back to the final resting place of the Clanranalds, who date back to 1150.

The clan motto, My Hope is Constant in Thee, was

bequeathed by Robert the Bruce when the Clanranalds arrived late at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

"I am delighted the stone has been recovered," said Ranald Macdonald, the 24th Chief of Clanranald. A direct descendant of the Lord of the Isles, a title now held by Prince Charles, he has never given up hope that the stone would be found and offered a £500 reward for its return.

HE went on: "The curse goes back to the mystic days of the late Middle Ages. No one will benefit or prosper from stealing such a thing. It was taken by a boy in almost total innocence. I am sorry he has died. No one really benefits from doing that sort of thing."

Clanranalds have been buried in the field at Howmore in the middle of South Uist since 1490.

The site was originally the Castle of Clanranald and a monastery which formed an important learning second only to Iona.

The ancient burial place within the grounds of the ruined Howmore chapel is now overgrown with rough grass growing between the leaning gravestones.

Rob Parker from the Clondonald Centre in Skye testifies to the power of the Curse of Clanranald. "I would not have moved that stone," he says. "The guy who stole it is no longer here. I am sure there is something in the curse."



HOPPY DAZZLER: The little red frog

Red frog's our croak of gold!

ZOO bosses nearly jumped out of their skins when an old lady handed them this RED frog.

They'd never seen anything like the freaky little fella, who will now be given pride of place among their amphibians. The frog's novel colouring must have driven his drab pond pals green with envy. But he has almost no hop of surviving in the wild because of his non-existent camouflage.

MARK MCGIVERN

Envy

Pete Benton, from Drayton Manor Park Zoo, Staffs, said: "He's very rare — and certainly cuts more of a dash than the other brownish green creatures you find in gardens."

"I have heard reports of frogs like this appear-

ing in recent years. It appears the cause of the red mutation is the hole in the ozone layer leading to extra ultra-violet light in the atmosphere."

The zoo has high hopes of the little old lady who brought them her unusual find.

Last year she took them a completely white frog with pink eyes!

'Scottish Sunday Post' South Uist, Scotland, April 1995.

'Daily Slur' Drayton, Staffordshire, 10 May 1995.

WEIRD HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

A judge threw out sexual assault charges against bus-driver Joseph Howard after the 22-year old 'victim' admitted the only witnesses in the case were two of her TEN personalities!!!

18th December 1994. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.

Tom Hogarth was desperate to play the role of the knight in shining armour...So desperate in fact, that he left a string of terrified women motorists in his wake.

He enjoyed helping a woman who had genuinely gotten herself into trouble so much that he began prowling the roads looking for others to 'assist'. He pulled over seven women on lonely country roads and after pointing out non-existent faults on their vehicles, sped off...

Hogarth admitted causing harassment, alarm or distress to magistrates and his lawyer told the court: "It is a really sad and pathetic way for an intelligent 38 year old man to behave".

March 1995. Hexham, Northumberland. 'DAILY SLUR'.

Takeo Niyama was a golfing fanatic who got so furious when his partner had the temerity to giggle as he sliced a stroke, he suddenly charged at his friend and beat him over the head with his club until he was dead.

The 43 year old is now facing murder charges. And there was I thinking I took sport too seriously...

19th March 1995. Tokyo, Japan. 'SUNDAY EXPRESS'.

Clinton Bruce Kirkbride, the man alleged to be 'The Bendigo Tickler' because he broke into houses to tickle children's toes, has been arrested by police.

20th March 1995 Bendigo, Australia. 'LIVERPOOL DAILY POST'.

OCCULT MURDER

A woman from Thailand named Pom Entiknap, living in England, stabbed her husband to death because she was convinced he was trying to kill their baby daughter by utilising Black Magic. The court at The Old Bailey, was told that Mrs. Entiknap denied murder but admits the manslaughter of her husband David, through diminished responsibility...

3rd April 1995 Woking, Surrey. 'DAILY MANC'

Warren E. Smith is intending to sue a Palm reader for £2 million because the numbers she presented him with didn't come up on the Lottery. The clairvoyant, Lola Rose Miller, otherwise known as 'Miss Stella', hasn't been too great at predicting her OWN future either...She is currently serving a one year jail sentence for cheating other customers who sought her advice (?).

5th April 1995. Roanoke, Virginia, USA. 'DAILY SLUR'.

'THE SAVIOUR OF THE UNIVERSE'

Francisco Duran, the man who raked the White House with gunfire claimed that instead of attempting to injure or kill any of the inhabitants, he was actually trying to dispel 'The Mist From Outer Space'; that was enveloping the building. He told psychiatrists that he was a "sentry put there to guard humanity". The shrink told the court in Washington that Duran is a schizophrenic who believes he is 'protecting the universe'.

7th April 1995. Washington, USA. 'DAILY MANC'.

Michael Marcum is an inventor who told a court that the motive for stealing a set of six transformers was to enable him to power an HG Wells-type 'TIME MACHINE'. The kicker is though, instead of him getting to travel forwards in time, he's now SERVING time in jail.

19th April Stanberry, Missouri, 'DAILY MANC'.

A man suffering from psoriasis told restaurants to hand over money...Or he'd shake flakes of his skin over diner's food. Not surprisingly, people were only too quick to give in to his demands...He acquired a total of £400 before he was finally arrested for extortion.

22nd April 1995. Latina, Italy. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'

REAL-LIFE 'FOREVER YOUNG'

A funeral director by the name of Barry Albin has become the first in Britain to offer 'deep-freezing' for clients, until science can find a way to bring them back to life. He charges the princely sum of £17,000 for the privilege of having the body packed in ice and flown to a cryogenic laboratory in Detroit, USA. Once there, the corpses are kept in liquid nitrogen in special chambers. Barry was quoted as saying; "I regard someone wanting to have their body frozen as being no different to someone wanting to get buried".

March 1995 Rotherite, South London. 'DAILY MANC'.

And a man who couldn't bear to be parted from his granny when she died aged 84, payed for a taxidermist to freeze-dry her body and put it in the living room of his house. Robert Straighter commented; "Some people might think it's ghoulish, but freeze-drying Nana was the ultimate act of love. She raised me after my parents died in a car-crash. When I feel lonely I sit and talk with her - it's as if Nana is still alive".

Eat yer heart out Norman Bates!!!

24th April 1995. Atlanta, Georgia. 'DAILY SLUR'.

THE GIRLFRIEND FROM HELL

Forgetful lover Stephen Vernon had a painful punishment after he forgot his girlfriend's birthday....Piranha Fish in his waterbed.

Patty Fouch was so furious that he'd allowed the date to slip from his memory that she bought a dozen of the razor-toothed fish to exact her revenge. She and a friend slashed a gash in his bed, slipped the fish in, and then sealed the slit with tape. Stephen only discovered what had happened when the fish chewed their way through the plastic covering and clamped their teeth on him...

23rd April 1995. Brownsville, Texas. 'SUNDAY EXPRESS'.

Persistent romeo Andre Schmidt, has been accused of starting fires which caused £8 million worth of damage - so they would keep a fireman busy while he wooed his wife. Police said Schmidt wouldn't take no for an answer. He now faces 25 years in jail for arson.

23rd April 1995. Moers, Germany. 'SUNDAY EXPRESS'.

A man claiming to have healing powers was given 25 lashes and jailed for three months for Sorcery, Sudan's official media reported...

5th May 1995. Khartoum, Sudan. 'THE GUARDIAN'.

STRANGE TALES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM; 2

DON'T FEED THE BIRDS, THEY'RE TAKING OVER.



A quiet read is out of the question in Cossington Street recreation ground; Leicester, plagued by flocks of overfed birds.

The Hindu population of Leicester, estimated to be somewhere in the region of 20,000, have always put out their surplus food for the birds at the Cossington Street recreation ground... There's so much piled up there, that it decays, and people wanting to walk in the fresh air, or just sit and relax are being driven away by huge flocks of Starlings, Seagulls, Crows, Ravens, Pigeons, and Sparrows.

"They come down in their thousands and screech and swoop down in clouds," claims resident Mavis Vaughey. "The Ravens are enormous. Some people find it intimidating. It reminds you of something from a Hitchcock film."

Bhupen Dave, a Hindu councillor explains that "It is an aspect of our religion to feed the birds. Some of the older people feel that if any food is left it should never be wasted. It is given to the birds. However, they have been too kind and too generous, and what is happening is that so many people are doing it there is far too much food left there."

A council spokesman said; "We are told it is a requirement in certain religions to be kind to birds. But there must be a balance between being kind and overdoing it."

23rd January 1995. Leicester. 'DAILY EXPRESS'.

HEARTBREAK KILLS A SWAN

A pining Swan has died of a broken heart after her mate was killed by mindless vandals. The Swan was found dead at a nature reserve where the cob was callously shot in the head two weeks earlier. The couple's three recently hatched Cygnets are being cared for by the RSPCA.

27th February 1995. Yeovil, Somerset. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.

COURT PROCEEDINGS INTERRUPTED BY 'JEEZLY OL' CROW'

Judges, barristers and other officials at Guildford Crown Court, are being subjected to the noisy interference of a Crow, tapping on the windows with its beak and cawing loudly, so disrupting trials.

5th February 1995. Guildford, Surrey. 'NEWS OF THE WORLD'.

Council chief Roy Jones was attacked by a Swan as he opened a new train service in SWANsea called... 'The Swan'.

6th April 1995. Swansea, Wales. 'DAILY MANC'.

FLYING PIGS CAUSE A HITCH

A cargo of 72 flatulent Pigs forced an airliner into an emergency landing. Gas from the Pigs, plus their own body heat, triggered the fire alarms. More than 300 people were aboard the South African Airways flight from Heathrow Airport when the mid-air crisis unfolded in the cargo hold. Fifteen of the prize stud Pigs, being flown out for breeding, died of asphyxiation when halon gas was released in the hold as part of the fire-fighting system.

7th April 1995. Heathrow, London. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

THE INCREDIBLE FARTING ANTS

They're pumping gas into the atmosphere fast enough to affect global warming and they don't even say 'Pardon!' when they do it.

A major source of methane gas, scientists have found, is the wind-breaking Ant, creating a fifth of the world's methane supply. Tiny though Termites are, it seems, size doesn't count....It's the sheer numbers.

In the tropics, Termites are believed to account for one tenth of the volume of all animals. In rain forests they eat wood, dry grass, decaying leaves and animal dung - a sure recipe for methane.

24th March 1995. General. 'TODAY'.

HOT SHOT COW

A Cow accidentally (?) stepped on the trigger of a rifle that had been left in a field by a farmworker. The rifle fired a bullet into the head of another beast grazing nearby. A vet said the victims condition was critical.

March 1995. Colobia, USA 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

THE MAGIC HIPPO

A Hippo that attacks canoes in the Niger River is believed by the local villagers to have magic powers, and the ability to disappear at will, because hunters have been unable to track it down.

March 1995. Niger River, West Africa. 'SUNDAY EXPRESS'.

KILLER ELEPHANT

An Elephant crushed its German keeper's skull and then walked away from his lifeless body as if nothing had happened. The animal, which has lived at the zoo for several years, squashed the 30 year old mans head against a wall in its pen, killing him instantly.

5th February 1995. Saarbruecken, Germany. 'NEWS OF THE WORLD'.

PLAGUE OF THE MULTI-COLOURED FROGS

Orange, yellow, pink and cream frogs are on the increase in Britain. 'The experts' say the number of Albinos could be proof (if it were needed!!!) of global warming, since they can survive only in unusual warmth. Frogs are one of earth's most thin-skinned animals and scientists believe that they feel environmental change sooner than others.

14th February 1995. Britain. 'DAILY EXPRESS'.

'Pushover' the black bull lived up to its name during a promotion stunt for a beer. The 2,000 lb Aberdeen Angus decided to go on the rampage in a brewery, knocking down its handler and had to be shot dead by police. 'Something spooked it' said a spokesman for 'Theakston's Ales'.

19th February 1995. Masham, North Yorkshie. 'TODAY'.

MYSTERY DISEASE KILLS 14 HORSES.

A strange, unidentified virus struck down a number of Horses and a trainer in Australia. Death was said to have been caused by a highly virulent new virus that jumps from animals to humans, according to scientists.

7th April 1995. Australia. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

BILLY GOAT NOT-SO-GRUFF

Men flocked to a village to buy cups of milk from a Billy Goat, which grew a breast, as a cure for impotence. But farmer Mufeed Shelkh, had to slaughter it after death threats from Muslim militants.

5th April 1995. Palestine. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

LAST RITES FOR A MONKEY

A Monkey which was a favourite with visitors to the Taj Mahal, was given Hindu last rites and cremated after it was electrocuted.

Weeping men carried the dead Monkey, considered by some to be a reincarnation of the Hindu Monkey God, Hanumana.

13th February 1995. Agra, India. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

CHOCOLATE LABRADOR DIVES FOR A YORKIE

Tarka the Labrador plunged into a fast-flowing river to save her seven-month old friend 'Poppy', a Yorkshire terrier that was drowning.

The canine companions were enjoying a game on a path alongside the Old Bedford River in Norfolk., when 'Poppy' slipped. Owner Sue Scrafield screamed as her pet fell into the rain-swollen river and was swept 15ft out from the bank. Within seconds the puppy had gone under. Her neighbour, Julie Webb, calmly pointed at the 10ft deep torrent and ordered: 'Tarka, fetch!!!'

The 21 month old Labrador immediately jumped in and swam in an arc to the spot where 'Poppy' had vanished. Then she dived, emerging with the bedraggled pup in her mouth, and swam back to the bank.

Julie commented; "It really is a bit of a coincidence that Tarka is a chocolate Labrador and Poppy is a Yorkshire Terrier. Like any other dog she loves chocolate - so we just had to give her a 'YORKIE BAR'.

18th February 1995. Norfolk. 'DAILY EXPRESS'.

A ROBBING DOG

Just to prove there are two sides to every story, how about this little snippet...

Alvin Waynes, six years of age, was on his way to school when he was robbed of ten dollars by a dog. The crafty pooch ran up and bit the boy on the leg, snatching the note out of his hand as the kid yelped in surprise and a fair amount of pain....

8th May 1995. Los Angeles, USA. 'SUNDAY PEOPLE'.

Six little pales of the unexpected



THREE of them were expected to be at least a little browned off.

But animal experts were amazed when all six of these hedgehogs were born all white on the night. The albino brood, thought to be unique, enjoyed a cautious cuddle

yesterday from Martine Hooper at the Secret World animal rescue centre in East Huntspill, near Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

They arrived after their albino father, called One-Eyed Al, was mistaken for a female.

Staff put him in the same pen as

an albino female called Snowball — and nature took its course.

Unusually, the newcomers have the black eyes of a normal hedgehog rather than the red of a typical albino.

Centre owner Pauline Kidner said: 'It's very unusual for the albino gene to be passed on to

all of a brood. Normally it would only be two or three.'

The prickly question now is whether to release them into the wild — where lack of camouflage would make them targets for predators — or keep them as pale but interesting pets.

'Daily Express'

ANIMAL MUTATIONS AND ANOMALIES

'Daily Express'

There would seem to be something of an increase in the number of reported cases of various types of animals apparently mutating....or at the very least taking on peculiar characteristics.

Witness the two accounts featured here...anomalous hedgehogs and giant rats on the prowl in Britain...

The latter tale would give James Herbert the screamin meemies!!!

Scmerset,

Ditton Fields, Cambridge

April 1995.

May 1995

Lair of the rat king

GIANT mutant rats bred by an obsessive loner ran loose and plagued a housing estate.

John Bellamy reared hundreds of the vermin — some as big as cats — in cages piled in every room of his bungalow.

His secret was discovered by health officers, called in by horrified neighbours after escaped rats overran their homes.

Jobless Bellamy, who is in his thirties, was arrested by police when he tried to prevent officers getting at the animals in Ditton Fields, Cambridge. It took three days to kill

Families in fear as giant mutant vermin bred by loner run wild on housing estate

Daily Mail Reporter

off his creations. He had been interbreeding domestic rats with wild varieties, producing huge hybrids. Martin Wells, the health officer leading the operation, said: 'Some of the rats were between a foot and 18 inches long and quite plump. We took away around 150 in cages and

killed over 80 that were loose. It is quite possible many more may have escaped. The conditions inside the house were the worst I have seen, and posed a potentially lethal health risk through the disease the rats can carry.

'Cages were piled on top of each other to the ceiling in every room, and rat droppings had accumulated

to the height of the window in the living room. The stench was overpowering. There were dead rats lying everywhere.'

Mr Bellamy is expected to be allowed back to his home on the council estate when it is deemed safe and habitable. Neighbour Molly Lander said: 'They found rats running around in my left. I could hear

them scurrying around at night. I had to go to bed with a Walkman on to drown out the noise. It was terrifying.

'I was scared stiff one would appear in front of me because you could hear the gnawing and they were really strong.'

Roger Coey, head of Cambridge environmental health department, said: 'It is a dire situation for the people who have been affected by this, and we will be listening to their applications to be rehoused.

'We have done everything we can to ensure they sleep easy at night without the fear of rats again.'

ARE THE GATES OPENING TO A REAL-LIFE JURASSIC PARK?

Scientists thrilled by dinosaur egg DNA find

By Jane Macartney
Daily Post Correspondent

DISCOVERY of DNA – the genetic building blocks of life – in a 70m-year-old dinosaur egg marked a major step forward for mankind, a scientist said yesterday.

It could add fact to the fictional hit movie Jurassic Park in which dinosaurs were brought back to life. But any thoughts of creating a baby dinosaur are likely to remain a fantasy.

"This is not simply a Chinese discovery," Professor Zhou Zhenquan, vice-president the Life Sciences Institute at prestigious Beijing University, said in an interview.

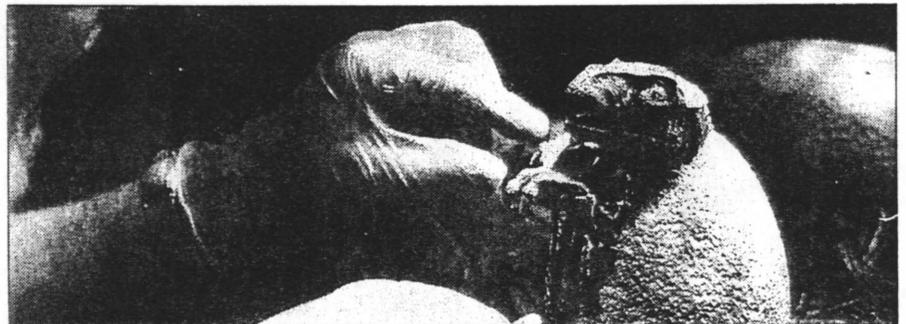
"This will promote the knowledge of all mankind."

A group of young scientists, led by Professor Chen Zhangliang, made the discovery of organic substances containing amino acids in a "cotton-like" part on the inner surface of a fossilised dinosaur egg late last year.

They were led to the find by chance when a collector of fossilised dinosaur eggs – one of China's latest crazes – dropped and broke one of his treasures in central Henan province, said an official who has followed the discovery.

The egg split open to reveal a softish centre and the collector told the regional government. Curious paleontologists descended on the egg and began their groundbreaking research, Zhou said.

On the morning of January 13, the research team found DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) in the egg and



□ A baby dinosaur hatches from an egg in the hit film Jurassic Park – scientists who have discovered dinosaur DNA may have moved one step closer to making the fiction a fact

succeeded in obtaining a variety of gene fragments.

In Steven Spielberg's thriller Jurassic Park, dinosaurs were brought back to life by cloning a sample of DNA.

Prof Zhou said the find could add fact to that fiction.

"That was a science fiction movie," he said. "That was dinosaur blood from a mos-

quito but this is the real DNA from an egg – so to some degree we have found evidence for this science fiction movie."

He warned that the creation of a baby dinosaur could remain a fantasy. "Such a thing could take a very long time and needs a lot of research."

In southern China, a team of Chinese and German scientists say they might have found a clue to the disappearance of the Jurassic-era giants – a diet imbalance traced to the diseased shell of fossilised eggs.

The team has been studying fossilised dinosaur eggs dug up in southern Guangdong province since 1983.

17th March 1995. Hanan, China. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

Archaeologists in China have it seems stumbled upon a huge fossilised Dinosaur egg, the largest and best-preserved ever found in that country. Cultural bureau archaeologist Zhang Weihua, and Henan museum photographer Yan Xinfu, were walking past some farmers shovelling soil, when the egg, 21 inches in circumference, rolled out in front of them... Cosmic Joke, or mere coincidence?

6th April 1995. Linbago City, China. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

And then, the very next day, reports came in that airport security officers in Northwest China, managed to seize four fossilised Dinosaur eggs from a Japanese passenger. Scientists say they have found fragments of Dinosaur DNA in another 70 million-year old egg. Talk about life imitating art!!!

10th April 1995. Xian, China. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

Also in the field of Paleontology, the bones of what is believed to be one of the oldest specimens of Duck-billed Dinosaur have been found in North America by amateur archaeologist Gary Byrd.

9th December 1994. North America. 'LIVERPOOL ECHO'.

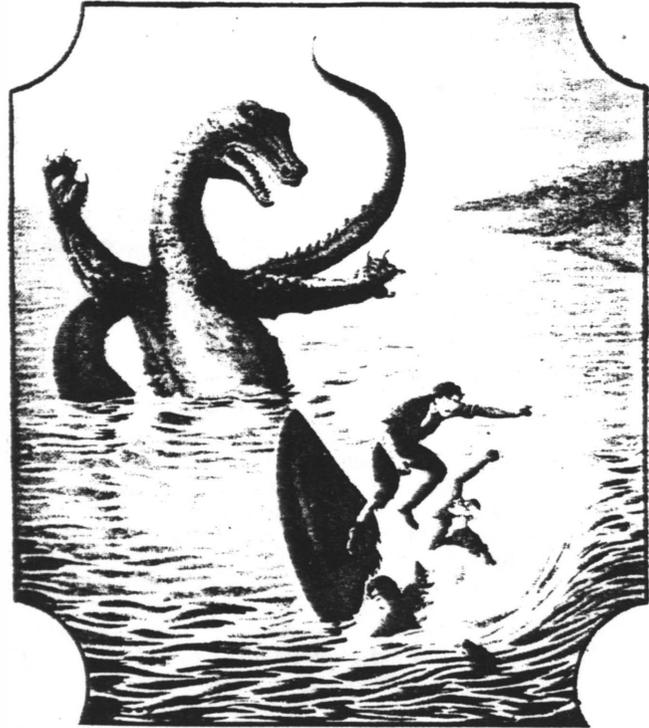
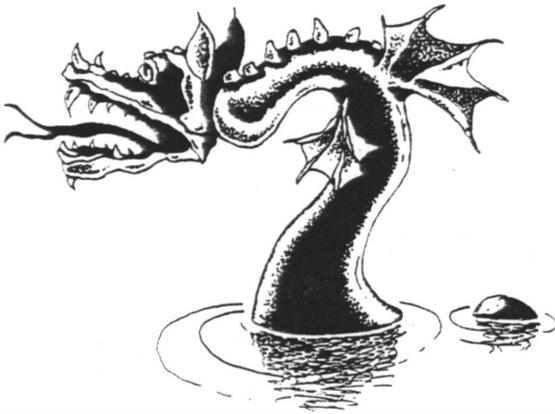
At the time of going to press, we've heard in the news that scientists are excited by the discovery of more Dinosaur DNA within the tiny body of a marsh-insect hundreds of millions of years old... Rest assured we'll keep you posted and up-dated in the next issue.....

LIVING A BOYS' ADVENTURE TALE

The Story Of The Loch Ness Monster Part One:

*'Gonna break out of the city,
leave the people here behind.
Searching for adventure, is the type of life to find.
Tired of doing day jobs,
with no thanks for what I do,
I'm sure I must be someone,
Now I'm gonna find out who...*

'Do Anything You Wanna Do' The Ramones.



The Great Glen, Scotland. August 1992. 7:10 am.

I drifted slowly back into something approaching wakefulness as the car, with Richie at the wheel, sped deeper and deeper into the green-tinted light of a Summer morning. Glancing out of the front window, my eyes rheumy from lack of sleep, I watched as the rays of the newly risen sun pierced the lengthening shadows and slanted in knife-edged bars across fields of high grass and tall, ancient looking trees. The endlessly winding road ahead was devoid of all other traffic and the only sounds disturbing the almost reverential silence, were the soft strains of Billy Joel crooning 'LENINGRAD' on the car radio, and the steady drone of the Rover's engine. The vista before me was a paradoxical kind of wilderness, in that dotted here and there were obvious reminders of civilisation...An empty crisp packet fluttering in the warm breeze., several weathered sign-posts that warned 'NO OVERNIGHT PARKING', and a long line of multi-sized speedboats and cabin-cruisers bobbing gently on the silver ribbon off to my left...But the distinct absence of people created a pervasive sense of solitude, of acute isolation that hung heavy in the air, an undeniable presence, like the threat of a coming storm. It was almost impossible to believe, but the dashboard clock assured me that we were less than twenty minutes out of the bustling town of Inverness - 'The Capital Of The Highlands'.

The Highlands of Scotland...

The very words brought to mind images of bagpipes wailing mournfully across thick forests of pine and fir, tartan-clad warriors guarding the battlements of crumbling, fairy-tale castles, and rugged, snow-capped peaks circled by majestic, Golden Eagles...

Flowery cliches all, but impressions that were amazingly vivid nonetheless. And I found myself wondering, not for the first time, whether the words of the poet, the lyricist, and the story-teller, written in celebration of the land which lay before us were half-way accurate or were nothing more than a stretch of the most willing imagination.

I was sure of one thing only.

Doubtless time would tell.

Richie must have been reading my mind, because he chose that precise moment to murmur softly, "We're almost there at last. Keep a look out. We should be hitting it any moment now".

He'd kept his voice low so as not to disturb my brother Grant or friend since childhood, Stevie Gee, who were both sat slumped in the rear passenger seat, but no sooner had he spoke than the pair of them had sat bolt upright, fully alert, and every bit as nervous and fidgety as a bridegroom on the morning of his wedding day.

I could well understand why that simple sentence had such a galvanising effect upon them.

For the first time in what seemed like the passing of centuries, my OWN thoughts turned to exactly where we were headed - the reason for us making the long trek from Merseyside, lay just up ahead - possibly around the very next corner...

And that thought was as welcome and refreshing right then, as an August cloud-burst, gradually bleeding its way into parched earth that hadn't seen a drop of rain in months.

Almost from the moment that I'd staggered, more than three parts drunk, into the car, and we'd embarked upon a never-ending midnight journey, the ONLY thought running around my head like a badly scratched 45 was a line from Tolkien's 'LORD OF THE RINGS', a book I hadn't read in God knew how many years;

"The Road Leads Ever On And On...The Road Leads Ever On And On".

Now though, with the exception of Richie, we each of us had our faces pressed close to the windows, eager to be the first to spot our objective.

Excitement mounted as we spied the tantalising glint of sunlight dancing on the surface of a large lake. But before we

could urge the driver to slow down, another of those confounded sign-posts loomed into view informing us that that the shimmering expanse of water away to our left was Loch Dochfour, and beautiful as it was, a furtive glance at the AA map spread between the passengers on the backseat revealed that we were still a mile or so short of our destination.

We barely had time to swallow our disappointment however, before we climbed the crest of a rise in the road and caught our first fleeting glimpse of a seemingly endless stretch of blue water, lined with a procession of gently undulating mountains that marched toward the distant horizon.

And just a few seconds later, the intermittent wall of trees, that from time to time had all but obscured the view before us, suddenly fell away so that there was nothing but rolling green fields and the odd lonely-looking farmhouse...

...And the lake that seemed much like any other in this part of the world...And yet was marked with a thousand and one differences that made it unique.

For here, at last, was the place it had taken over eight hours of hard driving to reach.

A place upon which the 'eyes of the world' are so often focused.

A place that is blessed with a sense of eternally brooding mystery.

A place of enduring enigma.

A place of real-life Faerie Tales.

A place of legend...

LOCH NESS.

Richie parked the car in the nearest available lay-by, and unable to contain himself any longer, he leapt across a low wall that acted as a barrier between the road-side and a steep embankment that dropped sharply to the tiny, pebble-strewn shoreline below.

He was joined almost immediately by Grant and Steve, and I followed in their wake, anxious not to miss out on anything.

At the same time however, I found myself filled with a strange kind of inner reluctance to approach any closer, and I stumbled to a halt several feet from the wall, and watched as my three companions slid headlong down the grassy slope to the water's edge. They never once looked back to see if I was right behind them. I guess they just assumed I WOULD be.

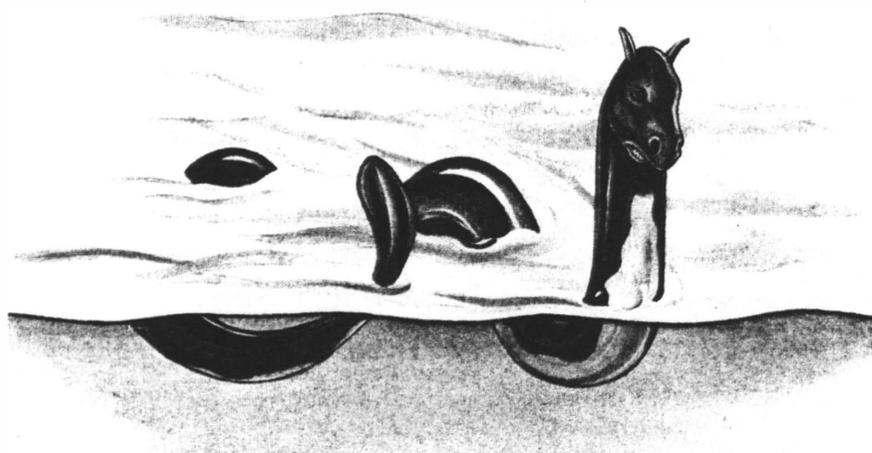
The truth of the matter is though, I had just stood there, swaying slightly from side to side like a man who had made a more than passing acquaintance with a bottle of 'BELL'S' finest. It was almost as though my entire body had been shocked into numbness by the sheer enormity of that which lay before me.

But if my limbs were rendered immobile, my mental faculties were working just fine.

And if I live to be a hundred, I don't suppose I'll ever forget the magic inherent in that moment....

Indeed, on days when I'm sat at my office desk in the dead of Winter, when the light outside is a pale and sickly kind of yellow, and the clock on the wall seems to have run down its battery, then I only have to close my eyes for a second, and I'm rewarded with a vivid recollection of the sights, and sounds of that glorious Summer morning three years ago, when I stood awe-struck upon the precipitous banks of "Some Dark Scottish Loch"...

The melancholy strains of 'ABA-s' "HUNTING HIGH AND LOW" taking the place of Billy Joel on the radio. A warm sirocco wind carrying with it the sweet fragrance of Scots pine and wild mountain heather. The waveless, mirror-like water throwing back reflections of rugged hillsides and a sky the shade of gun-metal blue. And overriding all, the weird sensation that time had stood still here, and that although I knew differently, (or at least THOUGHT I did) there seemed nothing left alone on the road except me...



You know, it's strange.

Reading back on what I've written, it all seems so... Well, TRIVIAL is I guess the word I'm looking for.

Many a person wading through this introduction, will probably shake their head in bewilderment at this point, and wonder what it is exactly that makes such a seemingly innocuous moment so very memorable to me.

And the truth is, I can't reveal to you that 'Secret Magical Ingredient' anymore than even the most skilled of teachers can describe the colours of the rainbow to a child blind from birth.

Sometimes, the most important things are the hardest things to say.

Sometimes, mere words can only serve to diminish the poignancy of that which you hold dear to your heart.

And perhaps sometimes, the 'magic' remains hidden away inside of you for the desperate want of an understanding ear...

Whatever the truth of the matter, the memory of my first glimpse of Loch Ness will stay with me always, for all of the reasons outlined above and for one even MORE important...

I lied when I told you earlier that it took me eight hours or thereabouts to reach the loch.

In REAL terms, it actually took me somewhere in the region of TWENTY YEARS to complete the journey.

The REAL trek had begun when I was in my last year at Church Drive Junior School, and had subsequently proven to be so frequently plagued with hidden pit-falls and insurmountable obstacles, that at times I was sure I was destined never to complete it.

Twenty years might not amount to much more than the blinking of an eye in the grand scheme of things. But just the same, it's roughly equal to a quarter of the average life-expectancy of a healthy human being, and it had seemed an eternity to me.

An eternity that in those few precious moments of 'no-time' on the banks of Loch Ness, had spiralled out before me in a series of startlingly clear images the way I imagine your life is said to flash before you at the threat of mortal danger...

Endlessly spiralling.

Like the slew of a whirlpool or the screaming twister that transported Dorothy to the 'LAND OF OZ'.

Spiralling.

Back down to the innocence of carefree childhood.

To a cold Winter's evening where I'm huddled beside a roaring coal fire.

A black and white television screen is showing a study lined with over-sized books, ancient maps and portraits of long dead people.

The camera zooms in on a desk piled high with charts, scientific instruments and yet more books, some of which are lying open at a specific page.

A man is seated there.

A man with a wise, kind-looking face who smiles benignly and speaks in a soft voice inflected with an accent that is unmistakably Scots.

He rises from his seat and makes his way over to a huge revolving globe of the Earth, spins it slightly, and points out the Western Highlands of Scotland, drawing his fingernail in a direct line across what he informs us is "The scar-like fault of the Great Glen".

He then refers his viewers to a more detailed map of the area, hanging on the far wall.

The words LOCH NESS, are printed in the dead centre of a long blue strip that can only denote water.

The scene slowly dissolves...

And opens on a bright Summer's day.

The date; 22nd July, 1933, appears at the bottom of a screen dominated by a long, narrow road, surrounded on either side by trees and thick undergrowth.

The camera views the road through the front window of a speeding car, and the feeling that all is right with the world is impossible to ignore.

Then, without warning, the bushes away to the left suddenly begin to shake violently as though something indescribably huge is making its way through them.

And a woman's voice is heard to exclaim in thinly disguised horror, the question that has been repeated like the most persistent of echoes during the six decades since:

"What on earth is that?"

SHADOWS AND IMAGININGS

Folkloric Traditions And Pre-1933 Reports

For me at least, the journey began with the viewing of the programme featured above, screened if memory serves me correctly, during the Winter of 1974. The name of the series was 'UNSOLVED MYSTERIES', and it was presented by the veteran compere of 'MASTERMIND', Magnus Magnusson.

As a child, I was absolutely fascinated with Dinosaurs, mythical monsters and the old Universal/Hammer horror movie, and so when I came across this piece on the Loch Ness Monster, (and for those of you who haven't worked it out for themselves, the aforementioned case is a brief outline of the famous F.T.G. Spicer land sighting, the full details of which we'll get to in due course), I became besotted with the subject.

The very next evening, I asked my dad to accompany me to the Adult section of the Civic Centre Library. Once there, I succeeded in persuading him to borrow a couple of books on his tickets for me namely; the first edition of 'THE LOCH NESS STORY' by Nicholas Witchell, and a hard-backed copy of Tim Dinsdale's 'THE LEVIATHANS'.

I remember feeling more than a little surprised to learn that the first sighting of something mysterious in the loch was as long ago as 565 AD.

Nowadays, anyone with even the slightest interest in the phenomenon, knows full well that St. Columba, the man who managed to convert the heathen Picts of Scotland to Christianity, was the subject of the first recorded sighting after he encountered a 'certain Water Monster' at either the mouth of River Ness or near Urquhart Bay (later commentators have further theorised that, as there was once a major crossing at a place called Bona Narrows, between Loch Ness and Loch Dochfour, before the Caledonian Canal was built, the waterway had become a short river. Maybe this is where the incident is said to have occurred?)

According to the account passed on to us by his biographer, Adamana, ('THE LIFE OF ST. COLUMBA' - VOLUME 6 BOOK II CHAPTER 27), Columba had come across a group of Picts standing on the shoreline. They were engaged in laying to rest a man who had been bitten to death by a Water Monster while he was swimming in the loch. There are, confusingly enough, several different versions of what actually took place. One account states that the Saint placed his staff upon the man's chest and miraculously brought him back to life.

Nick Witchell seems to favour the version that tells of how one of the Picts neglected to stay on the shore and listen to the Holy man's sermon, and decided instead to swim across the river/loch. All too predictably, he was attacked and

killed by the Monster for his sins.

Upon hearing of the man's death, the Saint had ordered one of his own men, a redoubtable chap by the name of Lugne Mocumin, to swim out across the water and return with the Coble (ferry boat) that had been abandoned on the far side.

No sooner had brave ol' Lugne dived into the water, than the Beast emerged from the inky depths and rushed towards its intended victim "with a great roar and open mouth". Columba, seeing the danger, held up his hand and invoked the name of God, commanding the creature to "go no further nor touch the man: Go back with all speed".

At the sound of the Saint's voice, the Monster beat a hasty retreat and "fled more quickly than if it had been pulled back by ropes">



Whatever the veracity of such stories, it is interesting to note that many modern-day accounts seem to indicate that the 'Monster' is noticeably sensitive to loud noises, and is frequently reported to have dived for cover at the banging of a car door, a dog's barking or a person shouting in excitement.

The reported sightings prior to 'The Big Picture' in 1933, are of especial interest for obvious reasons. Although it's true to say that such accounts are few and far between, and despite the fact that those which have come to light are invariably treated with some degree of scepticism by investigators and debunkers alike (due to their not being made public knowledge until AFTER 1933), the actuality that such reports ARE in existence, to my mind, adds credence to the enigma.

Before we take a closer look at some of the earlier references to 'Nessie', as the 'Monster' has come to be affectionally known, I think a word or two about the folktales and legends that have grown up about this part of the world, may very well be in order.

1

*'There are Marten Cats and Badgers
And Foxes in the enchanted woods,
But there are it seems, mightier creatures,
And the lake may hide what
neither net nor line can take'.*

So wrote the poet W.B. Yeats, in his wonderful work 'THE CELTIC TWILIGHT'.

For countless centuries, the people of the Scottish Highlands, and in particular, those who lived in close proximity to any of the hundreds of rivers, lochs and tarns, would no doubt have nodded their heads in firm agreement with such sentiments. The existence of strange entities haunting the various stretches of water was, (and in some areas very probably still IS), accepted without question. The Kelpie and the Water Horse are two such creatures.

According to Fred Gettings in his 'DICTIONARY OF DEMONS', The Kelpie was a name often used in popular lore to denote a marine Elemental or Undine. He further states that whilst most Undines are essentially harmless, the Kelpie has been afforded a far grimmer reputation, and whilst not to be confused with any TRUE Evil

Spirit or Demon, does have a nasty penchat for frightening young children. Such beings were also believed to possess magical powers, and sometimes, their intentions WERE malevolent. Several Loch-na-Beiste (Loch Of The Beast), are found on old maps, and tales of 'Nessie'-like creatures have come from many lochs well into this century.

TH sighting of a Kelpie wasn't ever something you raced home to tell your family and friends about, either. Much like an encounter with the dreaded Wailing Banshee, such a meeting was regarded as an omen of impending disaster. Because of this, there was a general reluctance...One might even say a taboo, surrounding the mere naming or mentioning of the creature, and children were often warned not to play near the water for fear of the 'Beiste'.



Michel Meurger, in his excellent 'LAKE MONSTER TRADITIONS', points out that the Highlanders drew a large distinction between the Kelpie (which was believed to frequent RUNNING water, i.e. rivers nad streams) and the Water Horse/Bull (that haunts the sea and lochs).

"The Kelpie is said to have cousins; one in the Shetland Isles in the person of the Noggle, and another on the Isle Of Man; the Cabyll-Uisge, and a third; Ceffyl-dwr, in the rivers of Wales" (any relation to the 'Beast Of Bala'? See article elsewhere

in this issue).

These creatures looked very similar in appearance to small horses, and could not be described as being in any way serpent-like.

They are however, equipped with the power to change into the form of handsome young men, although for some undisclosed reason, the Kelpie prefers to take the shape of a wild, hairy man...All the better to frighten those pesky kids with, I suppose.

The Kelpie is also said to emit a horrible, blood-curdling cry, and it may be relevant to mention that when the writer John Wilcox and his wife were visiting Loch Ness in 1974, they reported being awakened just before dawn by a "high-pitched yelping, screaming that didn't seem like any animal". ('A GUIDE TO OCCULT BRITAIN').

Katherine Briggs, author of 'THE VANISHING PEOPLE', reminds us that a Kelpie's chief delight is to induce unwary humans to climb onto its back whilst it's in the form of a horse, and then plunge into the deep water, where it devours them.

Loch Ness, need it be said, has always been regarded as the retreat of such creatures...

Perhaps most significantly of all, the bodies of Kelpie's were said to be basically unsubstantial. One moment they were as solid and 'real' as any other animal...The next, they can instantly become nothing more than a soft, sticky mass.

2

*These terrible creatures so common in lakes were set there
by subtle enchanters to watch over the Gates Of Wisdom'.*

George Russell (AE).

Following St. Columba's run-in with the 'Monster', the next mention of anything strange in the loch is contained within the notes of one Patrick Rose of Rosehall, Demerera. He was out hunting for Foxes and Wildcats in the heavily wooded mountainsides above Loch Ness, and his companions informed him that 'In the year when Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel had a fight with Wild-Cats on the shores of Loch Ness, a Monster was seen in the Loch...It appeared again in 1771, and people were convinced it was 'The Kelpie'.



Aside from one or two unsubstantiated rumours, the next reliable report comes from 1802, and concerns a crofter named Alexander MacDonald, a resident of Abriachan. He'd apparently seen unusual phenomena on the loch several times, and on one occasion in particular, he'd been in the process of rescuing a lamb that had fallen down a hill, when suddenly 'the Monster' broke the surface and swam to within 50

yards of him. Despite his fear, he took time to notice that the creature had short appendages with which it was propelling itself. It quickly turned and submerged with a huge commotion out in the middle of the loch. Alexander estimated that the length of 'the Monster' was about 20ft and that it had put him in mind of a Salamander. At around about the same time, Roderick Matheson, part-owner of a schooner that used to run regularly along the Caledonian Canal, sighted what he described as "the biggest Eel I ever saw in my life". It reportedly had a neck like a Horse and a mane somewhat similar.

Commander Rupert T. Gould, the author of the first (and by no means last) book on the subject in 1934 ('THE LOCH NESS MONSTER AND OTHERS'), was provided with an account from a Mr D. Mackenzie, who stated that sometime in the summer of either 1871 or 1872, at around mid-day, he was walking by the loch when he spotted what he at first thought was an upturned boat. This curiosity suddenly began to move "at great speed wriggling and churning up the water".

Nick Witchell recounts the the dramatic story of the diver Duncan MacDonald, who was sent down into the peat-stained waters to examine a sunken ship at the Fort Augustus end of the loch. He'd hardly had time to be lowered into the murky depths before he was signalling frantically to be dragged the hell out of there. Apparently, when at last he was able to clamber onto the banks, his co-workers were shocked to see that Duncan's face had taken on the hue of white chalk and he was trembling like a man with a bad case of the d.t.'s. Several days passed before he was fit enough to describe what had happened to him when he'd slipped beneath the surface...

He eventually told of how, as he'd been examining the keel of the sunken ship, he'd spotted a large animal lying on a rocky shelf directly across from the wreck. "It was a very odd looking beastie", he was quoted as saying "like a huge Frog">

Not surprisingly, he refused point blank to go down again.

In the late 1870's, a young girl from Inverness, together with her two brothers were sharing a governess with a family living in Dores. It wasn't until 1939, when the once young girl was an old woman with nothing left but her memories, that the following story came to light;

'One hot summer's day we took our lunches with us - my brothers and I picnicked on one of the northern slopes not far from the old graveyard (from this description it's rather difficult to be sure of the EXACT location she's referring to here, but I wonder if it's at all possible that she means BOLESKINE BURIAL GROUND - the final resting place of many members of the Clan Fraser and, as we shall see, an area steeped in occult-related mystery - not least because it lies in the path of cold, black shadows cast by the former residence of Aleister "The Great Beast 666" Crowley's former residence).

We had nearly finished our meal when we heard a noise and, looking round, saw coming down the slope behind and toward us an enormous and extraordinary animal, bigger than an elephant, but about the same sort of colour. It had a head perched on a relatively slender neck, and it turned from side to side and seemed to peer at us, passing a few yards to one side, and waddling down to the lake where it entered the water and disappeared. It had a long tail. Of course we were a bit frightened and frightfully interested. When we got home that night we could hardly wait to tell our father. He listened, and then ordered us up to our rooms. A few minutes later he came up and caned us all. "Now," he said, "I want you to understand that I'm not whipping you for telling a fairy story; but for telling me a fairy story and pretending it is the truth."

In 1880, two other children had a very similar experience when they spotted a creature with four legs that waddled out of the woodlands and into the loch.

Cherry Island, the only isle on the loch's surface (and according to local 'experts' may have been created artificially by the Picts - A fact that could well be of great significance seeing as how ancient sites seem to attract many forms of strange phenomena), has been the location for several close encounters with something mysterious...

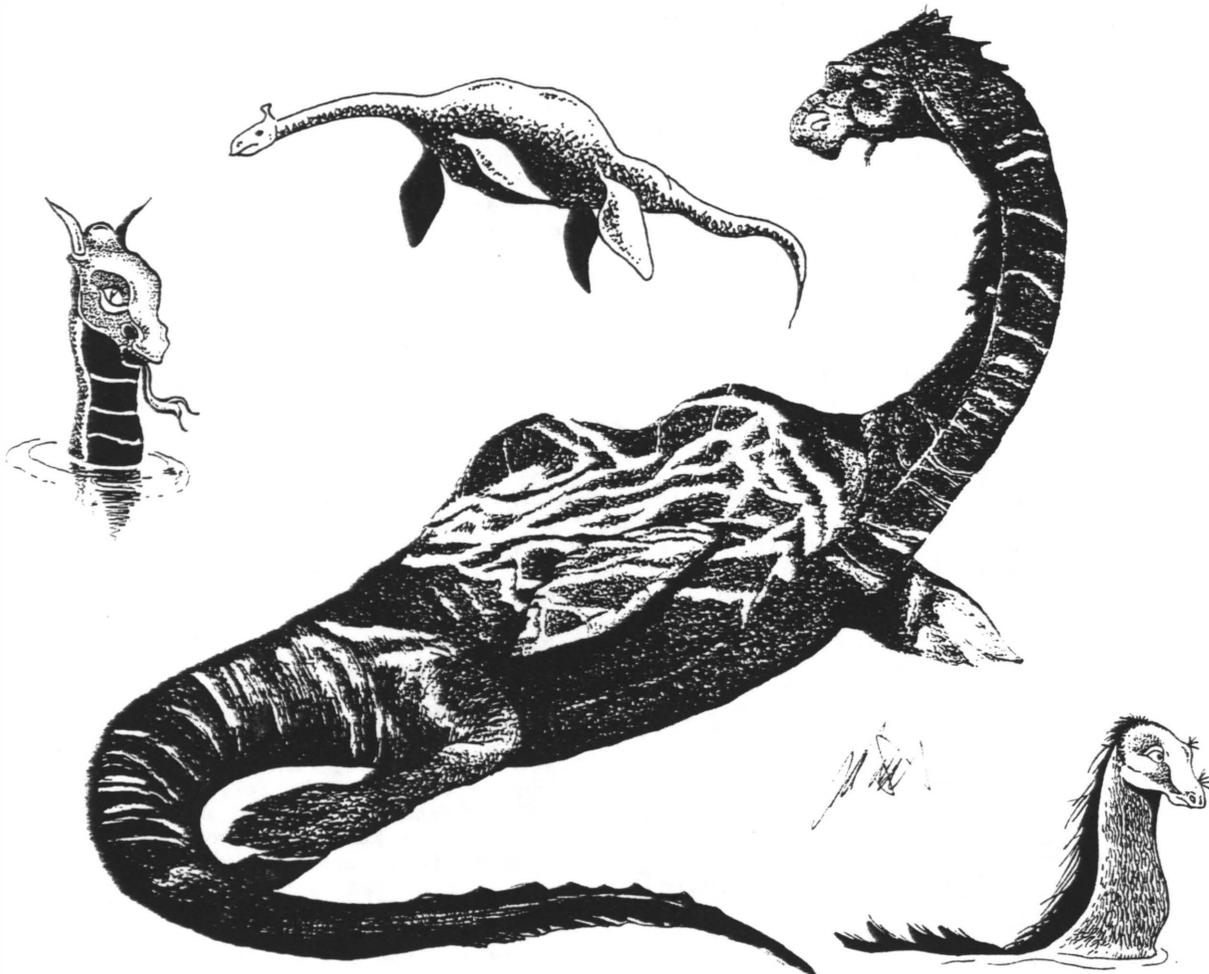
A man who would only sign himself 'H.F.W.' related in a letter to 'THE SCOTSMAN', that in the early years of this century, he had been out on the hills after Deer at Inchnacardoch. "I was with the local keeper, and when we got back to his house, the three children were crying - a sort of hysterical crying. The husband and wife spoke in Gaelic and I only had a fair smattering. He told his wife in no uncertain terms that that he had warned her time and again that the children were not to go near Cherry Island in the gloaming. Later in the evening, I tried to draw him about it, but beyond saying that no-one ever knew what might be in a loch like that, I was left guessing...But it was clear that they knew or thought SOMETHING was in the loch."

During the First World War, Margaret Cameron, then a young child, was playing with some friends in Inchnacardoch Bay, close to the Island, when they heard a 'crackling' noise in the bushes about a 100 yards away on the other side of the bay. A large animal came out of the woods that was Elephant-grey in colour, had a head very similar in shape to that of a Horse, and a set of four thick legs. Its body was huge and the children were understandably terrified. Not least by the way the creature moved, which was very like a Caterpillar.

And then, in 1926, Simon Cameron of Invergarry, was watching two Seagulls skimming the loch's surface near Cherry Island, when suddenly, "the Gulls rose screaming into the air. Then before my eyes, something like a large upturned boat rose from

the depths, and I can still see the water cascading down its sides. Just as suddenly though, it sank out of sight, but it was an extraordinary experience. Sometime between 1903/07, John Macleod of Invermoriston was fishing with a writer from Inverness, in a pool near the mouth of the River Moriston. They both spotted a large creature lying motionless along the surface on the far side of the pool. Curiosity aroused, they bravely tossed a line in its direction, whereupon it made off. It was between 35-40ft long and had an Eel-like head and tapering tail. Back in February, 1919, a 12 year old boy named Jock Forbes was travelling with his father by Pony-cart to Foyers, when the Pony shied and tried to back up from something crossing the road in front of them. According to the eyewitnesses, "a creature came out of the trees above the road, moved slowly across the road, and then went down the bank and we heard a splash as, presumably, it went into the water".

The 'Beast' was fully the width of the road, approximately 3 metres at that point. 'The Monster' was again seen on land in 1923, when Alfred Cruickshank sighted a khaki-coloured creature illuminated by the beam of his car headlights, crossing the road. Its body was between 10-12ft long, and it had a tail of the same length. Once again, there was a reference to the 'animal' having four thick legs, this time with the added detail that its feet were webbed. It was also heard to bark like a Dog.



The final pre-1933 sighting we have on record here at 'DEAD OF NIGHT' headquarters, (although we're more than certain there must be dozens of further reports contained within the files of other investigators) occurred on the 22nd July, 1930, when at approximately 8:15 am, three young anglers, one of whom was Ian Milne, a gunsmith from Inverness, were in a boat fishing in dead calm just off Tor Point, near Dores. They suddenly heard a great noise and all saw a large commotion on the water which consisted of spray being thrown up into the air. The disturbance advanced to within 300 metres of the boat, and then seemed to turn aside into Dores bay. The boat rocked violently and a 75cm wave passed them by. The frightened fishermen could only detect a vague 'wriggling motion' as the huge wash kept its catalyst hidden from full view. They were however, able to draw a comparison with the movements atypical of an enormous Conger Eel.

And so, we can see quite clearly, that the combination of tradition coupled with contemporary sighting reports form at least, a basis, a foundation, an ARGUMENT, for the existence of a large, unidentified creature(s) inhabiting Loch Ness. The twenty year journey continues in the next issue, when we'll be looking at the era Loch Ness REALLY hit the headlines; 1933.

THE TURIN SHROUD

By Steve Griffiths

INTRODUCTION

When I was asked which subject I would like to write about for this month's edition of DEAD OF NIGHT, I told our weird and wacky Editor, I would like to write a small article on the Turin Shroud. Knowing that this issue's main theme is lake monsters, my thoughts turned to the similarity I had found between the recent attempts by Alistair Boyd and David Martin, to discredit the famous surgeon's photograph with the results of the carbon 14 dating on the Turin shroud. It seems that a little publicity given to a subject can sway a person's view even if the subject involved shows many inaccuracies. Although the carbon dating on the shroud was said to have given 95 per cent accuracy, not enough attention was given the fact that the shroud had been involved in many situations which might have caused its destruction, such as the fire in 1532 where the molten silver burned right through the many layers of cloth, a fact that has been proved would cause problems in the results of the dating. Unfortunately, as with the verdict of Boyd and Martin, the general public only get to hear half the story and the whole affair is immediately dismissed as a hoax. So, in order to present this article from every possible point of view I sat down and sought out all of the information I could find amongst my own collection of material, which I have accumulated over the years, and, any I could discover in libraries and magazines. The only problem was, there was so much information on the subject that it would have been impossible to write a reasonable account in only four of five pages. I took my problem to the Editor who came up with the idea that I should write it in two parts. The first part deals with the cloth's known history in the 14th century, which is well documented, and a look into the little known whereabouts of it before that time. The second part will deal more with the scientific view of the sindonologists or "shroudies", who, over the past few years have been given permission to examine the cloth in much greater detail. Hopefully, the article will not offend anyone in the Christian world, for it contains many people's views on how the Bible was possibly miss-interpreted and involves many ideas on what became of Jesus after the crucifixion. I do however stress that my beliefs remain completely impartial and that I am merely recording the proclamations of many of the researchers who have devoted years seeking to discover the truth about the burial cloth, the Shroud, said to have covered the body of Jesus Christ when he was laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

THE ORIGIN OF THE SHROUD

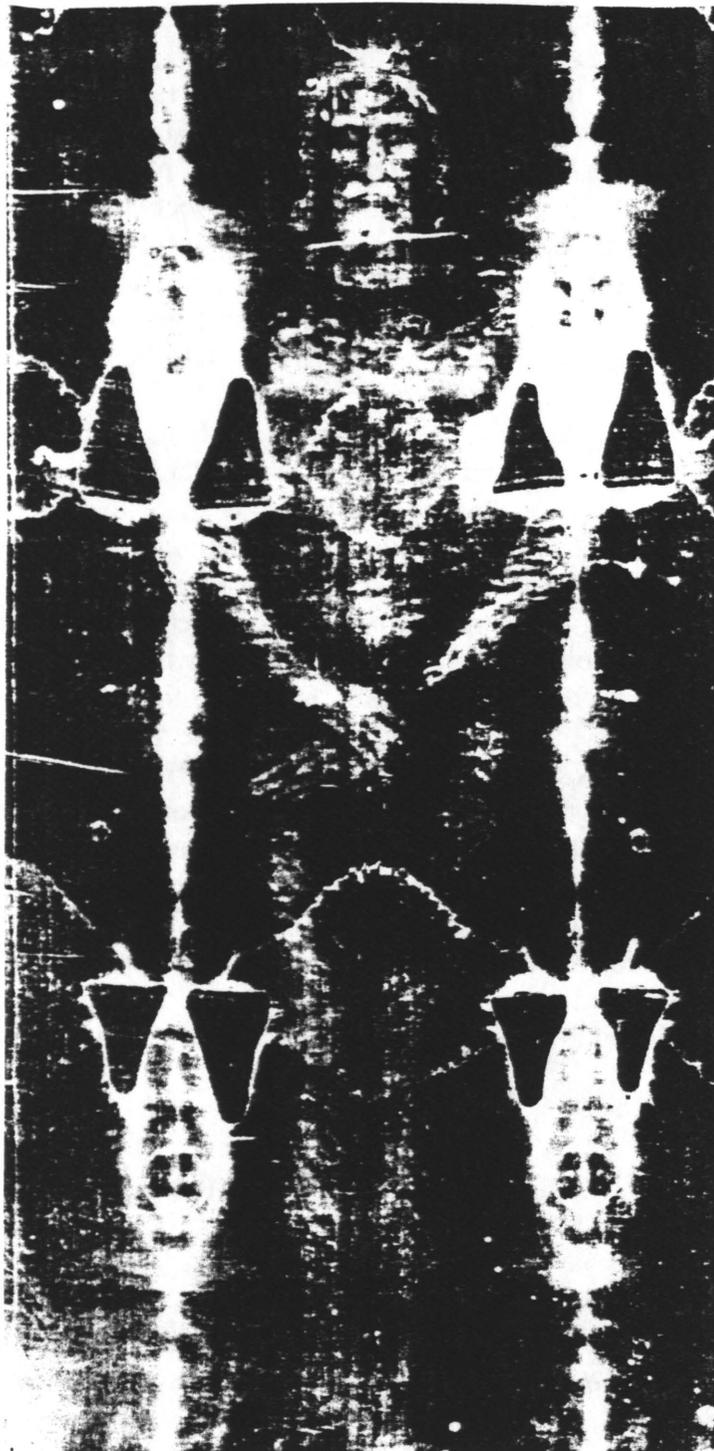
PART ONE

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid in his own new Tomb which he had hewn out in the rock, and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Matthew, 27, 59-60

In Jerusalem, circa A.D 30, Joseph of Arimathea and a disciple named Nicodemus sought out Pontius Pilate and begged for the possession of the body of the crucified Jesus. They

removed the corpse from the cross, bound it in a winding sheet and placed it in a tomb with a stone sealed entrance. The next day Mary Magdelene found that the stone was removed from the entrance and informed the Apostles that the tomb was empty. As they entered the Tomb they found only the linen that Joseph and Nicodemus had wrapped the Body in. The cloth was said to have had a faint image upon it. Now known as the Turin Shroud, it is widely believed to be the only true image of the Son of God.



Photograph showing the front of the shroud as it appears in negative form. The white areas on the arms, chest and forehead appear to be bloodstained. The burnt areas caused by the 1532 fire, can be seen running parallel down both sides of the image.

Throughout centuries of controversy concerning the Shrouds authenticity, it still remains one of the most fascinating of the many Holy relics that still exist today. While many people look at it as the Divine image, many scientists, with the use of carbon 14 dating on pieces of the cloth, dismiss it as a clever Medieval fake.

Kept in Turin Cathedral, wrapped in a red robe and placed in a silver casket, it is displayed high up on an altar in the Royal Chapel safely behind iron grills, only to be brought down on special occasions. To view it one can only just make out the faint outline of a tall man resembling the image of Christ.

The cloth is 14.25 ft long with a width of 3.58 ft which, when folded over from top to bottom, gives a head to head image of a five feet ten and a half inch man. It is a naked figure weighing approximately 178 lbs with both hands crossing over the pelvic region. There are many markings on the body which suggest that the man had been whipped. The whip marks are in groups of two, similar to those made by a Flagrum, a whip tipped with twin pellets, which were often used by the Romans. Other marks to the body include a wound to the side of the chest, in between the 5th and 6th rib. The Bible tells us that a Roman soldier named Gaius Cassius pierced the side of the Messiah in this exact location and from his wound came blood and water. The Roman soldier, now converted to Christianity, became a hero in Jerusalem, from that moment on he was known as Longinus the Spearman.

The image on the Shroud also indicates wounds to the head, wrists and feet akin to wounds inflicted by nails and a crown of thorns as we are told in the Gospels. All these areas appear to be stained, possibly by blood oozing from the wounds of the victim.

The Shroud's known history appears to begin in a small church in Lirey, twelve miles from Troyes in France. It is not clear how it came to this small church but is believed to have travelled across Europe from Constantinople by the Order of the Knight's Templar during the fourth Crusade. The cloth's first owner was Geoffrey De Chaney in 1350 and remained in the De Chaney family until 1453 when Margaret De Chaney, (Daughter of Geoffrey II de Charney) now widowed and in bad financial difficulty, bequeathed it to Duke Ludovico of Savoy who built a chapel in Chambery to house it.

It was in this chapel on December the 4th 1532, a fire broke out, nearly destroyed the Holy relic as the whole structure of the building burned to the ground. The cloth was saved by two brave laymen, Fillipo Lambert and Guglielmo Pussod, who, with the aid of two Franciscan Priests, broke into the reliquary and escaped with the partially melted silver casket containing the Shroud. Although the cloth was saved from complete destruction it did suffer damage from drops of molten silver which had burned right through 48 folds on three edges of the cloth but almost miraculously, completely missing any of the shrouds image. The damaged cloth was taken to the Monastery of St. Clair where the nun's repaired the cloth by sowing triangular patches over the burnt areas. A Holland cloth sheet was sown to the under-side of the shroud for further protection.

Apart from the damage caused by the fire in the chapel, there appears to be four sets of round burn holes which date before the incident in 1532. We know this because of a painting of the shroud found in the church of St. Gommaire, in Belgium which dates to 1516. The holes also appear in a manuscript from Hungary which dates even further back to 1192.

It has been suggested that these burn marks are poker holes, deliberately forced through the folded layers of cloth four times, forming an L-shape, which is clearly depicted on the Buddhist prayer book of 1192. This shows that some time before the 12th century, the cloth was possibly put to the test in a trial by fire, a medieval practice where pitch-soaked pokers were pushed through holy cloth's and other relics to prove their authenticity.

By 1578, Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy had the shroud transferred to Turin during the celebrations of the City's new Capital. Although it has remained in this City ever since, it wasn't placed in the Turin Cathedral until June of 1694, where it was placed in a Chapel designed by the Abbot Guarino Guarini.

Still housed in this Cathedral, the cloth now becomes the possession of the Vatican when the ex-King Umberto II bequeathed the shroud to the Pope in 1983. The Pope had travelled to Lisbon for discussions about possible ownership of the shroud and two weeks after this transaction Umberto II died. The Vatican now had the power to arrange to have the Shroud properly investigated. Professional Sindonologist's were brought in, some secretly, others under the watchful eye of Video and photographic analyses, all out to solve the mysteries of this Holy relic.



Photograph showing a daytime exposition of the shroud on the steps of the Turin cathedral in 1931.

Apart from the Biblical accounts, some of the recorded history of the cloth appears to originate around A.D 338, when an American Christian Princess, St. Nino, mentions seeing the shroud of Christ in Jerusalem. Whether or not this cloth was imaged with Christ is not recorded, but, if we refer back to the Gospels we find not one of the Apostles accounts ever mentioning a single word of the burial cloth of Jesus leaving an image upon it. A miracle such as this one would surely have been documented in the Bible as final proof of the existence of the true son of God.

It has been suggested that perhaps the image could not be seen at first and may have darkened over the coming centuries, a scientific possibility if the cloth was stained with body oils and perspiration, this effectively would yellow the cloth over a certain time. (this experiment was carried out by Sam. F. Pellicori of California who used students in a test to produce a face cloth which he placed into a special oven which executed the natural process and produced clear features of the face, including the eyes, nose and parts of the beard).

During the fourth century the Shroud makes several appearances, one by a historian, Nicephorus Callistus, who records Empress Pulcheria (399-453) recovering a scarred linen cloth from the Empress Eudokia who placed it in a new Basilica of St. Maria of the Blackernae in Constantinople(Western Turkey). Even in the seventh or eighth century , French Bishop Aroulf and St. John Damascene, refer to a linen cloth called, Sudgrium, being in Comstantinople but how it came to travel there is not known.

THE MANDYLION

Could the Mandyllion of the Eastern orthodox church have been one and the same as the cloth we know today as the Turin Shroud?

Ian Wilson, The Turin Shroud.

One explanation was, it travelled from Edessa,(now Urfa), not as the Burial cloth of Christ, but of the well documented Holy Mandyllion of Edessa. This would account for the shrouds long absence in History until it turned up in fourteenth century France.

The Mandyllion was first mentioned by the Chronicler, Evagrius, around 590A.D. In his book,"Church History", he wrote about a cloth which was found within the brickwork of the Town's gates in 544. The cloth was said to bear the image of the face of Christ which was used as a protective palladium during the siege of Edessa from Persia ,under King Chosroes I Anushirvan.

According to the Legend, when the Edessans learnt of the Persian invasion an Apparition the form of a lady, revealed itself to the Bishop Eulalios telling him to bring the divinely fashioned image of Christ concealed within the walls above the town's gates. The Bishop went to the gates and found within the brickwork a still burning lamp and, as foretold, a cloth with the imprint of the messiah's face. The cloth and the lamp where taken to the tunnels running under the town, dug out by the Persians, who hoped for a surprise attack on their

enemy. The Persians had begun lighting the fire in the tunnels in an attempt to flush out the Edessans ,but when a few drops of oil from the lamp spilled onto the fire, the inferno immediately turned upon their aggressors. The town of Edessa was saved and the Mandylion became one of the most sacred of Holy Relics, as was the Ark of the Covenant, often carried into battle by such leaders as Ivan the Terrible and by the Russian troops during the First World War



Drawing taken from a medieval contemporary manuscript showing the exposition of the Veronica veil. Many believe it to be the head area of the Turin shroud.

The Mandylion was described as *Acheiropietos*, a Greek word meaning not made by human hands and its origin was based on early texts which tell of the legend of King Abgar V of Edessa, who was said to have been cured of his illness by the imaged cloth. One of the legends start with a letter from the King , addressed to Jesus when he had heard of his miracle

performing. He invited Jesus to Edessa to cure him of his own illness but instead Jesus sent back a letter along with a towel which he had wiped his face upon leaving an imprinted image. On viewing this towel the King was cured and this miracle converted him to Christianity.

Another story tells of an apostle named Thaddeus who brought the cloth to Edessa not long after the crucifixion of Jesus. This probably derives from the tale of Veronica, who was a woman, she rushed from her house to see Jesus on his long painful journey towards Calvary. pushing her way through the crowds she approached Jesus and wiped his face clear of the blood and sweat using her own veil. Jesus replied to her, " all honour to you courageous woman, the saviour granted you the most precious gift which he could make to a creature of this world, his portrait imprinted on your veil".

These two legends do not explain how the Mandyllion and the Turin shroud could be the same relic as the Mandyllion was clearly only a facial image? Perhaps the answer lies in the early Text word for towel of Jesus which is Tetradiplon, a Greek word literally meaning, doubled in four. Curiously, if you were to fold the shroud in this manner you would be left with only the area of the head showing, appearing to be disembodied, similar to early Eddesan paintings and frescos of Jesus. This would also account for the unusual landscape appearance of the Mandyllion instead of the more conventional portrait. The shroud does show signs that at some stage in history it had been doubled in four, and the head area of the cloth is a lot darker than the rest, clearly showing that at some time in its early existence the head area was much more exposed.

With the Mandyllion folded in four, nailed to a board and covered in a protective trellis, it's just possible that the Turin shroud could have survived thoughtout history posing as a facial towel of Jesus rather than the burial cloth.

If we are to believe that the Mandyllion was the Turin shroud , how can we account for its long journey across Europe, into the hands of the French , to end up in a small wooden church in Lirey. One possible theory is that it was looted from Constantinople by the clandestine order of the Knight's tempar during the fourth crusade. This proposal will be looked at in greater detail in the next issue.

EARLY RESEARCH IN THE 1900'S

The photograph is stupendously successful and has an exceptional importance for Religion, History and Science.

Corriere Nazionale, June 2nd 1898

The Shroud is very rarely taken out of it's casket and has only been on view to the public on a handful of occasions, it wasn't until 1898 that the very first photographs where allowed to be taken. The man commissioned for the task was Secondo Pia, an amateur photographer and part time lawyer.

Born in Asti in 1855, Secondo Pia possessed a vast knowledge of photography with a keen interest of Art, Chemistry and Physics. Most of his spare time was spent producing

his own glass plates from his box camera, he loved to experiment with the use of mirrors, projecting light to produce perfect picture images, in the days when photography was very much still in its infancy. Pia often boasted that he never once had to retouch one of his negatives.

It was this reputation that led King Umberto I to appoint Pia to take the pictures of the Holy Shroud. The King, who was also the head of the House of Savoy, was not happy with the idea of the Shroud being subjected to the heavy lighting conditions that would be needed to produce a good picture for fear of damaging the Holy relic. He was soon persuaded by Baron Manno who suggested that not only would the photographs bring profit to Turin by Tourism but also it would benefit them if the Shroud was ever destroyed or stolen. The King now convinced, set dates for the local photographer to take his pictures. With a couple of helpers pia was able to construct a scaffolding that would elevate him to the required height, he then made a steady platform to hold the camera still during exposure.



Photograph showing Secondo Pia as he looked when he took the first ever photographs of the Turin shroud. His negatives revealed details which could not be seen with the naked eye.

On the 27th of May he was ready to take his first two pictures, one exposed for fourteen minutes, the other at twenty. Ten minutes before the first plate was completed the glass cracked under the heat of the two floodlights. His first attempt had failed him, it wasn't until three days later that he could try again. On the 28th of May Pia obtained two complete plates which he immediately rushed back to his own dark room in his apartment.

He placed his first plate in the solution and held the plate up before his eyes. The image began to form, his eyes brightened as he stared at a perfect outline of a man whose features had now sprung to life. He could now see a face of a bearded man with long hair which was not visible on the Shroud before. Secondo Pia latter wrote, " all intent on my work, I experienced a very strong emotion when during the development I saw for the first time the Holy face appear on the plate, with such clarity that I was dumbfounded by it". It was now clear to him that if this was the work of a painter then he would have to of had a vast knowledge of photography for the glass plate that formed before his eyes was still in negative form.

Secondo Pia's photographs where received with great controversy, many people claiming that Pia had tampered with the negatives, to pia this was one of the greatest insults. It wasn't until 1931 that the shroud was to be photographed again and proof was certified concerning their authenticity. Meanwhile Pia had to sit tight and bite his lip, relying on the expert opinion which was received by two men, Paul Vinnon and Yves Delage.

Paul Joseph Vignon, a French man born at Lyon, was a biologist and a scientist. His interest in the Shroud began in 1900 when Yves Delage , a professor at Sorbonne and a director of the natural history museum, showed him the photographs taken by Secondo Pia. Vignon was so impressed with them that he travelled to Turin to meet Secondo Pia personally. Pia welcomed him and made copies of the photographs for Vignon to take back to France so he could carry out his studies. With the photographs which he called. "the magic key", because he believed they opened the doors to their negativity image, he was becoming more curious about whether the shroud could in fact be the actual burial cloth of Christ.

Being a painter himself, Vignon looked at the possibilities of the shroud being a forgery from the 14th century by means of a painted image, concluding that no one of that era could know what a negative image would look like without the knowledge of photography. He even experimented with his own painted cloth, only to find that when dry, the paint would just peel away. Vignon even experimented with aromatic substances such as aloes and myrrh. substances that would have been smeared over the cloth during the burial rites of a Jew. myrrh and aloes ,when oxidised with body alkalies and mixed with ammoniacal vapours emitting through sweat, did leave a dye on the linen . thus proving that an image could be produced naturally from the body of a man, but could not determine weather the image was that of Christ or a person to the same roman punishment of crucifixion.

The biggest breakthrough came in 1932 when Pierre Barbet, a chief surgeon in Paris, viewed the second set of pictures taken by Giuseppe Enrie a year before. Being a teacher of anatomy at St. Joseph's Hospital, he was always in close contact with corpses, often using them in his experiments. His interest in the shroud concerned the wounds which appear to be located on the wrists of the victim. He proved that if a body was nailed to the cross by the palms, the weight would be to heavy to sustain a person, tearing right through the hands. the only possible place allowing a body to hang would be through the wrists, a place called the space of destot. The nail would be logged through the ring arrangement between the two bones in the wrist, similar to remains found at Jewish cemeteries of other crucified victims. During his work he noticed that as he hammered the nails into the wrists the thumbs of the hands jammed inwards on the palm. Barbet believed he had uncovered the mystery of the missing thumbs on the shroud of Turin.

Guided by the accounts in the Bible , he reconstructed the piercing of Jesus again using a dead body. He pushed a knife into the chest, just between the ribs, four inches into the right auricle. To his surprise, from the wound flowed a watery substance we now know as Pericardial fluid, followed by a trickle of blood. Reverting back to the gospels , St. John's account told of the flow of blood and water emitting from the lifeless body. It would seem that the Biblical texts were beginning to show us some medical facts.

One year after the now famous Secondo Pia photographs, a French priest, named Cyr Ulysse Chevalier claimed that the Shroud was nothing more than a medieval painting. Chevalier was an expert in medieval-lore and traced the shrouds history back to the French city of Troyes. He found a document which is now kept in the National library of Paris, which dated to 1389.

It was written by Peter d' Arcis, the Bishop of Troyes, who at the time was bitterly complaining to the Pope of the exposition within his diocese, of a certain shroud in a small church of Lirey, twelve miles from Troyes. The bishop informed the pope that 30 years earlier the shroud was exhibited in Lirey and the Bishop Henry of Poitiers had made some inquiries and..."discovered the fraud and how the said cloth had been cunningly painted, the truth being attested by the artist who had painted it, to wit, that it was the work of human skill, and not miraculously wrought or bestowed. Peter d'Arcis pleaded with the pope to stop the expositions ensuring him that the shroud could not possibly be the true image of our lord, if there were such a cloth with the imprint of Christ surely the evangelists would have mentioned it in the holy gospels.

The Pope considered this and wrote to the owner of the shroud, Geoffrey II de Charney, telling him that in future, when the shroud was shown to the faithful, it was to be made clear the cloth was only a likeness or representation of the lord. He also wrote to the Bishop of d' Arcis reimposing perpetual silence, under pain of excommunication. The bishop of Troyes died in 1395, leaving only these records condemning the shroud as a painting in which the painter had made a confession. For Chevalier, the shroud was definitely a fake painted by an artist around 1350. In the Autumn of 1900, his book entitled " Critical source studies", managed to convince people with little knowledge of the subject that the shroud was indeed a forgery.

Chevalier was awarded a gold medal by the Academie des inscriptions et belles-lettres, being recognised as one of the leading catholic historians until his death in 1923.

Part two will be looking at the possible connections the shroud had with the Order of the Knight's Templar, which created speculation that it is a 14th century fake by Leonardo da Vinci. It will also deal with the opinions of experts as the cloth is put to the ultimate test of carbon 14 dating, which brought about many controversial views of a possible Vatican cover-up.

KEEP WATCHING THE SKIES!!!



UFO UPDATE:

'PROJECT BLACK HORSE': UFO CRASH RECOVERY

Defected Captain James Van Grunen now lives in Germany. He was a South African Intelligence officer at the time of the following tale. He had a startling story to tell. So astonishing in fact, it involves two Mirage jet fighters, several airfields on emergency stand-by, the huge might of NORAD and GCHQ, as well as various highly placed scientists and military personnel. The events we're about to relate, were alleged to have taken place on a remote sand dune in South Africa, in 1989. At 1345 GMT on 7th May, 1989, a naval frigate radioed Cape Town naval headquarters to report an unidentified Flying Object that appeared on their radar-scopes, heading towards the African continent in a north westerly direction at an estimated speed of 5746 nautical miles per hour. Naval HQ quickly established the object was also being hunted by air-borne radar, military ground radar bases and D.F. Malan International airfield at Cape Town. NORAD was also involved in the search for the trespasser and the vigil sharpened in its keenness as the object penetrated South African airspace at 1352 GMT.

Radio contact was sought with the thing, but all conversation was in vain. 'Valhalla Air Force Base was informed and two armed Mirage fighters were scrambled. The object unexpectedly altered bearing at a great speed, which would be impossible for any conventional or military aircraft to copy.

At 1309 GMT, the squadron leader of the 'Mirage' dou, reported that he had radar and visual confirmation of the object. The order was granted to arm and fire the experimental mounted THOR-2 laser cannon at the object to try and impair the UFO, so the gunnery unit was fired and several blinding flashes emanated from the object. The object started wavering whilst still heading in a northerly direction.

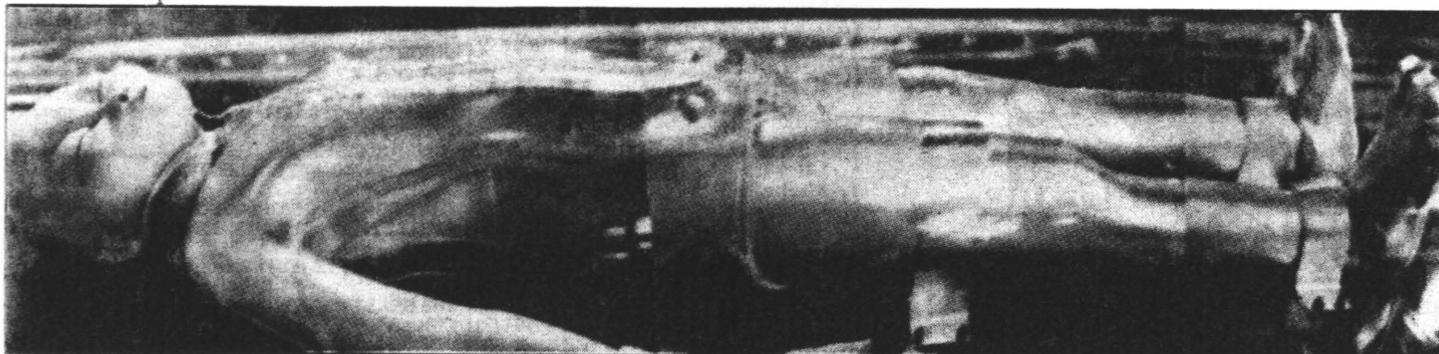
At 1402, it was reported that the object was reducing height at a rate of 3,000 ft per minute. Then at great speed it plummeted at an angle of 25 degrees, and collided with the barren territory 80 km north of the South African border with Botswana, known as the Kalahari Desert. The squadron leader was told to circle the district until arrangements could be made to collect the debris. Sure enough, a team of Airforce intelligence officers together with medical and technical staff were taken to the area of impact to salvage what was left of the 'craft'.

The team found a cavity 150 meters in diameter and 12 metres in depth. Excitement grew within the contingent as their eyes caught a glimpse of lightrebounding off a silvery tinted spherical object embedded within a crater. The sand and rock around the object were fused together by the fierce heat it produced on impact. Some Airforce equipment suffered damage from an intense magnetic and radioactive environment surrounding the downed object. The team leader was concerned about concealment of the 'craft', and suggested they move it to a secret Armed Forces base for further examination of the object. The UFO was transported to a military detention area level 6, under the smoke-screen code named 'Silvwe-Diamond'. The area was cleared and the crater filled in with sand to disguise what had taken place. It was rumoured that two Airforce helicopters had had caught a high dose of radiation from the UFO which caused the choppers to fail and down. All the crews perished in the calamity.

The investigation team analysed the wreckage under tight security ('Project Pantry'), and they couldn't identify it as being anything assembled on this planet. There was a strange insignia stamped on the side of the 'craft' which was 20 yards in length, its height was 9.5 yards and its weight was roughly 50,000 kilograms. A hydraulic type of landing gear was fully assembled suggesting that an electric malfunction was the reason for the objects downing. Reports have recently surfaced that two 4 to 4.5ft grey/blue skinned humanoid entities were found inside the craft after the object was opened up with hydraulic pressure equipment.

Their heads were oversized in relation to human proportions and were possessed of a raised cranium with dark blue markings extending around their heads. They were completely bald, they had prominent cheek-bones and their eyes were

large and slanted upwards towards the sides of their faces. They had long and thin arms and their hands consisted of three digits, webbed, claw-like nails. The extraterrestrials were reportedly pretty aggressive and when a medical doctor tried to take samples of their blood and tissue, one of the entities attacked him causing deep, scratch marks on his face and chest. The Visitors were offered a meal but rejected the food from the anxious soldier. This is of course, all a matter of speculation but supposedly, the the United States Wright Patterson Air-force base, asked for a one-way passage for both Humanoids to travel across the Atlantic for more advanced investigation and examination. They travelled on 23rd June 1989. And in return, the US government entered into a bargain with the South African Government and handed over radical unconventional arms in exchange for the UFO.



POLICE PROBE DEATH THREAT:

Police are calling for help in identifying a man seen giving out 'death threat' leaflets on West Yorkshire's Todmorden Market.

Former policeman and current UFO investigator Alan Godfrey, was contacted by the police after a man was seen handing out leaflets containing a photograph of Godfrey and a death threat.

Todmorden section commander for West Yorkshire Police. Inspector John Feltham, said they were taking the matter seriously. "It's bizzare to say the least. We are eager to speak to this man and when we do, proper action will be taken" Alan Godfrey said; "It's not very pleasant. I've had crank mail over the years but nothing like this before".

UFO SIGHTED OVER LANCASHIRE

On 19th December, 1994, between 9:30pm and 9:50pm, Mr F of Barnoldswick, Lancashire, saw a bright light in the sky. He called his wife and they both saw it leave. They stood looking into the darkness one more light emerged. Their son and his girlfriend joined them and two more lights appeared directly above the first. They took 4 poor photographs which were analysed by a photo laboratory in Colne. The prints show a large triangular shaped object with three searchlights on each end. More than on this case as and when we get it...

Johnathan Dillon. 'BURNLEY UFO WATCH'

Vire
Press

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2288
News Department
2287

ESTABLISHED 1880

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1947

16 PAGES



Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Marital

Indiana Senator Lays Protest Before Patterson

Washington, July 8 (AP)—Sen. James H. Eastland complained today that "the bulk remained in the Courtroom there is something about the defendant's conduct in court." In a letter to Secretary of War Patterson concerning a just announced order of army military trial procedure, Eastland offered what he said was extraordinary proof that: "Prisoners are not being permitted to employ either civilian or military counsel of their own choice in the program and prosecution of their defense." "Every effort is being made to prevent prisoners who were convicted with the defendant Lockheed from case to practice in courts started in the State."

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

Defeat Amendment By Demos to Remove Many from Rolls

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

Late Sunday, July 8 (AP)—The United Nations security council today approved an American proposal for arms reduction talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. The vote was 9 to 0, with Russia and Poland abstaining. In view of Russia's firm stand against the U. S. plan it had been...

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

Roswell Hardware Man and Wife Report Disk Seen



'REAL' ROSWELL FILM SET TO HIT THE SCREENS:

The controversy over Roswell just goes on and on... It's the story that simply WON'T go away and shows no signs of doing so in the near future...

Indeed, judging by the re-newed media interest courtesy of the current video release of the dramatisation of the Roswell Incident (there'll be a review of this movie in the next issue), and the news that cameraman Ray Santilli has inadvertently come across reels of film purporting to show actual footage of the alleged crash, the tale is set to reach new heights of notoriety.

The film is due to be unveiled at the BUFORA conference in Sheffield, Yorkshire, and will also feature in a BBC TV documentary on the subject.

Keep your eyes posted for more information as and when it happens...

UFO spotters plan to open X-files on space visitors

STARGAZERS David Williams and Richard White are launching South Wirral's first flying saucer network.

The two ufologists plan to set up a data base of close encounters in the area, and are appealing for like-minded enthusiasts to get in touch with them.

David, a 25-year-old science student from Loxdale Drive, Great Sutton, said: 'We are collecting case studies of incidents in this area, and we want people to get in touch if they have any experiences they want to tell us about.'

'This will allow us to build up data on sightings here, allowing different UFO groups to exchange information.'

'We also plan to start our own

magazine on the paranormal.'

According to 24-year-old storeman Richard, of Carrick Drive, Whitby, it will be the first group of its kind in the Port.

'There is no-one for people to contact here at the moment if they have anything unusual to report. We want to hear from people who have experienced sightings,' he said.

Anyone interested in sharing in-

formation should contact David Williams at 76 Loxdale Drive, Great Sutton, L65 7AN.

● Supernatural investigator Pat Blackmore wants to hear from anyone who has had experiences with the paranormal.

Pat, 72, is starting up an Ellesmere Port branch of AS-SAP, a scientific study group into the unknown. He can be contacted on (0151) 355 4213.



STAR-CHASERS:

Richard White, left, and David Williams, who have launched a UFO study group.
1464X35A

'DEAD OF NIGHT' WRITERS FORM NEW UFO GROUP:

Richie 'Swayzie' White and Dave 'Cheeky Beard' Williams, regular contributors to this very magazine, have got together to form 'THE ELLESMERE PORT UFO STUDY GROUP' an organization they hope will act as both a news-gathering service and a field-investigation unit, ready to travel to the scene of any UFO related incident in the area encompassing Cheshire and Merseyside.

The group has been formed in response to the increased number of aerial anomalies being reported in the skies above the two adjoining counties. There are, so far as I'm aware, no other study groups in the area. So there exists no data-base to collate and investigate the welter of reports now coming in. Until now, that is!!!

For more information regarding the group, see poster elsewhere in this issue...

LATEST UFO SIGHTINGS FROM 'THE PORT'

UFO sightings puzzle Port

A SERIES of close encounters with unidentified flying objects has left Port people puzzled.

Fifteen-year-old Steven Farrell heard a strange metallic whooshing sound over his home in Alvanley Road, at around 7pm on March 11.

When he went outside to investigate, he saw an odd-looking craft hovering in the distance.

He said: 'It was quite high in the sky, just below the clouds. It was triangular, with two red lights on the side and a yellow one on top. Then it started to move away until it disappeared in the distance.'

The mystery craft was also seen

by Steven's mother, Barbara, who watched it for nearly 10 minutes before it flew off.

She said: 'It looked like a large star except for the colours. I could see red and yellow lights. It didn't sound like an aeroplane, it was making a kind of buzzing sound.'

Steven reckons he had a second close encounter when the craft came back three days later on March 14.

'I think there were two of them. There was no sound this time, but they disappeared very quickly - faster than any plane I have ever seen,' he said.

Steven's first sighting was backed up by another witness, Gary Caslin, who saw a strange light in

the sky while driving home in the early hours of March 12.

The 25-year-old from Greenfield Road, Little Sutton, said: 'I was driving along Rossmore Road West when I saw a bright light in the sky about a mile away. It was flickering very fast, like a strobe light.'

'Then it suddenly dropped out of sight behind a row of houses. It couldn't have been a helicopter, because it went down so fast, and it definitely wasn't a plane - unless it crashed. It's really left me puzzled.'

Local UFO investigator David Williams, who has recently set up a study group in the Port, believes the two sightings could be connected.

ALIENS INVADE THE PRESS!

THE NATION IS GRIPPED WITH ALIEN FEVER AS TABLOID OBSESSION WITH ABDUCTIONS GROWS.

You would have to be an alien yourself not to have noticed the rise in ABDUCTIONS within the pages of our friendly newspapers of late, but why this sudden popularity you may ask, could it be due to the number of recent television documentary's that have been springing up all over the place recently, or is it a result of a back lash from America where the abduction phenomenon has reached epidemic levels in all aspects of journalism. U.F.O's have always been widely reported in the press over the years I only have to glance through my personal files to appreciate this fact, but U.F.O's are steadily being pushed aside within the press to make room for their counterpart, abductions.

The **PEOPLE** newspaper ran an article on abductions in their February 19th issue with the captivating headline, " Aliens raped me on their spaceship....then they stole my body juices and skin! " The article centred around a housewife Ros Reynolds-Parnham who claimed that she was plagued by aliens for more than 13 years, she then describes an encounter with aliens which has apparently left her unable to have children and terrified of future abductions. She claims that last January she was woken by a strange vibration which was all over the house which she took to be an enormous helicopter, then a beam of brilliant light entered her bedroom window and focused upon her husband lying beside her, on this occasion she rushed to her bedroom window and shouted at " Them " to leave her and her husband alone, this they did

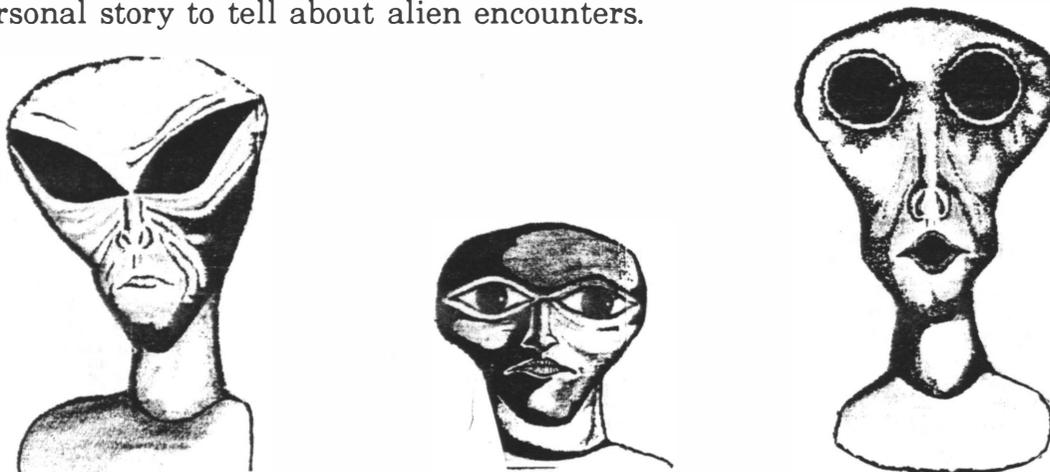


Ros's sketch of the type of aliens who she claims abducted her.

but she says that she will never forget the night that the aliens ruined her life. During a previous abduction the aliens told her that their race was in danger of extinction and that they needed other life forms in order to sustain themselves. The aliens placed Ros onto a perspex pedestal and took skin and fluid samples from her private parts. Ros says that the aliens were 3ft to 4ft tall with blue-green heads and " weedy bodies " she says that they had large almond shaped eyes and slit like mouths and that none of them had hair or eyebrows, each alien

possessed four fingers which they used to prod Ros. Ros claimed that the aliens had no voice but communicated to her through her mind. Since her encounter, Ros has been diagnosed by her Doctor as clinically depressed and has been prescribed strong tranquillisers. Ros's husband Mark, told the **PEOPLE** that they have had people openly challenge their story, he believes that what his wife has told about the aliens is real as he has seen her scars and that he is the one who has to calm her down whenever something involving aliens appears on the television.

One of Merseyside's local newspapers the **CHAMPION** ran an article featuring abductions on 15th February titled " Is there anybody out there? " The article featured many reports of U.F.O's that had been sighted over Merseyside, the earliest dating back to 1963 and also the abduction phenomenon in a few of its guises. The article related the story of Travis Walton's abduction which was the subject of the recent film ' Fire in the sky ' and begins to identify the various forms of alien abductors from the small grey humanoids to the six feet spindly colourless variety. The article was written by Jayne Thomas and mentions the work of U.F.O researchers Norris Green and Tony Devine, the later taking a philosophical approach to the phenomenon, he told the **Champion** that " as we approach the end of the millennium, people are looking for answers. Society is grasping for something to explain human existence " The article also featured the Roswell incident and touched upon top level military and governmental cover-ups, finally inviting the readers to ring the **Champion** if they have their own personal story to tell about alien encounters.



Tony Devine's drawings of aliens as described by abductees under hypnosis.

STOP PRESS!

The following are a couple of announcements made at a recent U.F.O conference in Birmingham attended by myself which are of particular interest.

Firstly that Dr Susan Blackmore who many of you have seen on various television documentary's of late (check out issue number 4) has been exposed as a professional debunker of U.F.O's and various other paranormal phenomena.

Secondly the discovery of several canisters of film apparently taken in the 1940's purporting to show a US military autopsy on a dead alien. The footage was apparently copied by an official USAF photographer and stored until now. According to **Quest international's U.F.O magazine**, the canisters contain several reels of film which show U.F.O crash sites and debris and also autopsies on a dead alien. One sequence of film shows two surgeons taking skin samples from a tallish humanoid alien with big black eyes. The film was shot inside what appears to be a field type hospital tent illuminated by paraffin lamps. 100 minutes of film is believed to exist and significant sections may be released in the near future.

DAVID WILLIAMS 95

THE SEARCH FOR ET LIFE GOES ON

SUNDAY EXPRESS 19th March 1995

From Peter Lynch
in Sydney

IN A darkened bunker deep in the Australian outback, some of the world's most eminent astronomers sit hunched over a bank of flickering computer screens.

Towering above them is the southern hemisphere's biggest radio telescope, scanning deep space for the first faint signs of alien life.

At any second the giant receiver could lock on to a signal that can only be coming from another civilisation light years away.

If it happens, if aliens send us a message, it will be the most significant event in the entire history of mankind.

But how do we Earthlings reply?

"We don't," says Dr Raymond Norris, 42, a Cambridge-trained astrophysicist. "We have all had to give undertakings not to transmit anything until it has been authorised by a body like the United Nations."

For Hertfordshire-born Dr Norris, who did PhD research at Jodrell Bank and has all the enthusiasm of a youthful Patrick Moore, the dilemma of what to do in the first dramatic moments of contact with another species is no story line from Star Trek.

As sole Briton on Project Phoenix, the biggest search ever mounted for signs of alien life, it is a question that recurs each time he takes his turn for a 12-hour shift at the keyboard of the world's most advanced astronomical super computer.

Project Phoenix is the brainchild of the US-based SETI Foundation. SETI stands for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Its 64-metre radio telescope at Parkes in New South Wales is boldly listening to frequencies no astronomer has listened to before, scanning an awesome 56 million transmissions simultaneously.

Over the next five months, 13 astronomers will monitor 1000 of the Earth's closest stars in a round-the-clock vigil for the merest hint of another life form.

It may all sound like the stuff of science fiction. But the idea that SETI might succeed has already

sparked the equivalent of nuclear fission among academics and religious leaders. Some maintain it is a waste of time and money. Others that it is close to heresy.

But the United Nations takes SETI's work so seriously it is forming a Post Detection Committee briefed to consider the intriguing question: How should the world respond to another civilisation? It will involve 30 of the planet's top minds, Dr. Norris and two other Britons among them.

Their concern becomes clear as soon as the momentous conse-

quences of a SETI success sink in. One confirmed signal will be enough to challenge centuries of theological thinking.

There is a risk of panic — Orson Welles' War of the Worlds radio broadcast was mistaken for the real thing 60 years ago — and what scientists describe as "culture shock." Yet, remarkably, no one outside a select scientific community seems to have given the matter much serious thought.

So far, Project Phoenix has locked on to nothing more sinister than the random transmis-

WHAT THE STARS REVEAL	
MOST astronomers agree that the absolute vastness of space makes it certain that, somewhere out there, other intelligent life does exist.	Milky Way is just one of up to 400,000 million galaxies in the universe.
There are 100,000 million stars in our own Milky Way galaxy alone — many of which probably have planets like our own Earth. But the	If just one in every 100,000 million stars in the universe has a life-bearing planet, there would be 400,000 million planets out in the vastness of space with alien residents.

quences of a SETI success sink in. One confirmed signal will be enough to challenge centuries of theological thinking.

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checked by moving the telescope away and back again, the signal faded just as it should. For 10 minutes, I thought we had cracked it."

But then the signal faded away. "It was very deflating. You search for months and months, but Murphy's Law is out there waiting to get you."

Dr Norris has one major fear. Perhaps they are listening to us and because of the distances involved are receiving some very worrying signals.

"A star 50 light years away is now receiving transmissions from World War II," he says. "Just imagine what picture they are getting of the human race if they are listening to Adolf Hitler's speeches."

While it sounds as if everything will be happening at break-neck speed, radio transmissions travel at a pace that means they take four years to reach our closest

Is there anybody out there?

sions of a few mobile phones, a microwave oven and two "friendly" satellites.

But, convinced that eventually they will succeed in contacting another civilisation, SETI scientists have been forced to devise a code of conduct.

Dr Norris, for instance, will first call his former colleagues at Jodrell Bank and ask them to check he is not imagining things.

THEN, because the group fears governments may try to block the release of the news, he will begin alerting scientists across the globe by fax. "There is a protocol agreed to by everyone involved," he explains.

"We won't transmit anything because it is just conceivable that unwittingly we might invite somebody to come and attack the Earth."

"The next priority is that we don't want any group to try to keep it a secret, so there will be simultaneous news conferences in various parts of the world."

Norris concedes sticking to the protocol will not be easy for

data. We might even get TV or video pictures, showing us exactly what they look like.

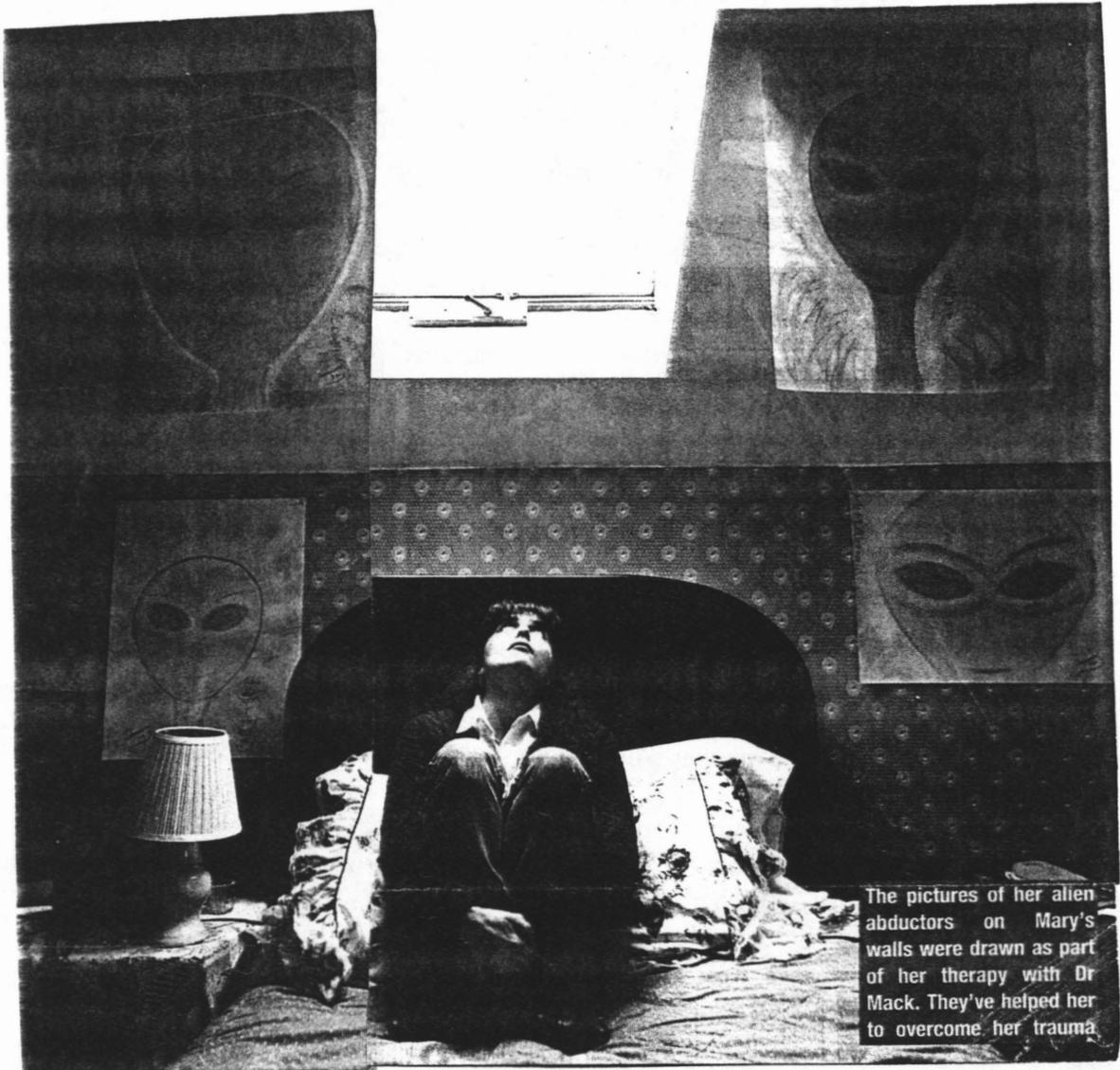
"Imagine the effect of seeing a civilisation millions of years in advance of ourselves."

A veteran of six such searches in the past, Dr Norris believes Project Phoenix offers the best hope yet of finding another civilisation.

"This search is so enormous it is much, much bigger than all the previous attempts put together, and that is why we're very excited," he says.

Dr Norris says that already his team has had moments of anticipation. "We actually had something that we thought was real," he says. "Each time we cross-

TALES OF THE ABDUCTION MYTHOS



The pictures of her alien abductors on Mary's walls were drawn as part of her therapy with Dr Mack. They've helped her to overcome her trauma

WEIRD INTRUDER

Mary's terrifying visitor was just the start of her close encounter ordeal

Mary Oscarson, a data management specialist in the defence industry, believes she was first visited by an alien in 1981 when she was a student at the University of Connecticut.

The attractive 34-year-old brunette, who now lives in Rhode Island, says, "I woke up in the middle of the night because I could feel somebody was looking at me. And at the end of the bed, there was this thing.

"It was a small grey creature with black eyes and a large, oval-shaped head. I shut my eyes because I was so petrified. When I opened them again, it was gone."

The next day, Mary told her university friends about her strange night-time visitor and they looked at her as if she were mad.

"If it hadn't happened to me, I wouldn't have believed it, either," says Mary, who has since had dozens of encounters of the ET kind. "But

after that, I stopped telling people about my visits.

"Throughout my 20s, I would often wake up with scars on my body, puncture wounds or incision marks. I am now convinced the aliens were conducting experiments on me."

In his book, Dr Mack points out that many of the abductees undergo operations, particularly on their reproductive systems. He says, "Men have sperm removed, while women have their eggs taken."

Like Joe, Mary believes she helped give birth to a hybrid alien baby.

She says, "When I was 26, I woke up in the middle of the night and found I was somewhere else, surrounded by several small greys. One

of them was holding an infant, which was half-human and half-alien. The next thing I knew, I was back in my bed. I later learnt from the aliens that it was my baby."

It was on March 6, 1991, that Mary

finally realised the aliens were taking her to their spaceship. "I'll never forget it," she says. "I woke up and found myself inside a spaceship which was all metallic. The craft was moving very fast. I wanted to look round the ship, but I couldn't move. The next day, someone told me there'd been a UFO sighting in town.

"After that, I would often wake up on a table with the beings performing procedures on me," continues the divorcée who, on several occasions, asked various friends to stay overnight. Four of them, she claims, heard loud noises, saw bright lights and experienced paralysis before waking with scratches on their bodies.

Mary also took recordings. She says, "On one tape, you can clearly hear the words, 'Don't wake up.'"

She contacted Dr Mack after learning about his research, knowing he would listen to her tales of abductions without laughing at her.

As part of her therapy, she began drawing pictures of the aliens. Now her bedroom walls are covered. "I'm not afraid of them any more," she says. "They are part of my life."



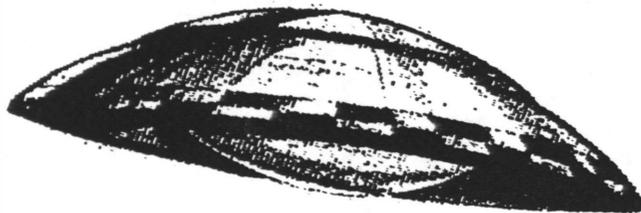
Wirral Invaded as local towns are buzzed by mystery UFO.

Report by D. Williams - Ellesmere Port UFO Study Group.

Ellesmere Port and surrounding areas are at present experiencing a UFO flap, this is exiting news for UFO investigators as the UFO wave holds some interesting and peculiar features. Ellesmere Port however is not new to the UFO phenomenon, quite the reverse, the town has experienced many curious and often frightening encounters with unidentified crafts and their occupants.

Jenny Randles a respected Ufologist who is known world-wide for her writings and investigations of the phenomenon attended a UFO meeting at Ellesmere Port library back in September and brought attention to the fact that UFO's have held the north west regions of England under special observation, in fact she claimed that Aliens might be trying to make contact with Ellesmere Port. Randles claimed that Ellesmere Port and surrounding districts have a long history of UFO activity, this is certainly true according to my own research, in fact the first crop circle ever recorded in the British Isles was discovered in Elton over 60 years ago (not taking into consideration the mowing Devil of the seventeenth century)

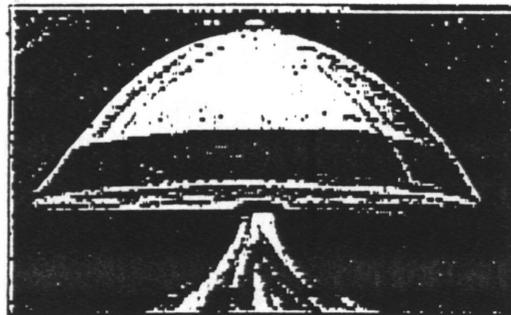
According to Randles, many people have been abducted whilst travelling the A56 from Chester to Runcorn and more strange occurrences have been documented on this small stretch of road than any other motor way in the UK.



Frodsham was host to a near cattle abduction / mutilation some time ago as a number of witnesses described a landed craft in a nearby field, when they investigated further they were astonished to find a small entity measuring a cow with some kind of apparatus. I have personally talked with people who believe they have been abducted in Ellesmere Port and I am genuinely certain of their sincerity (and I'm not talking about exited brain cells and temporal lobe seizures either Mrs Blackmore!) In fact the very road in which I live has been host to two UFO events, one of which occurred about six months ago when a local woman Mrs S. described a huge saucer shaped object hovering above a field, another case occurred just around the corner when a local man was driving home with his wife and a couple of friends, his wife saw what she described as a ' large triangular ship ' just hovering above a playing field next to a public house, the ship was sending down beams of light to the ground, the woman who wishes to remain anonymous said that she took off her high heels and ran towards the

craft as it hovered above the field, she said that when she stood underneath the object it just shot up into the sky disappearing into a dot, the craft made no sound at all.

The recent UFO flap began back in September when Jodrell Bank picked up a trace of a UFO skimming along the Mersey estuary. Local air ports confirmed that the craft wasn't any local plane or helicopter as the co-ordinates of the UFO didn't correspond to any known air craft taking off from runways in the area. Later on January 6th a triangular shaped UFO was seen by a pilot on his approach to Manchester airport, the pilot apparently 'ducked' in the cockpit as he thought that the UFO was going to collide with the aeroplane, the incident was the subject of a mass enquiry. In March residents of a Runcorn estate were buzzed by a UFO which was seen to be sucking up water from out of the river Mersey. This incident had several witnesses, one of which a Miss C. 31 said that the craft was in the sky when a group of teenagers began waving at it, the UFO then began to sail towards the teenagers and began sucking up water with a beam, the object was whitish and bell shaped and as it tilted slightly Miss C. said that she could make out a set of triangular lights on its underside. The UFO eventually flew off towards Helsby. Another witness in the same area came forward with her sighting of the UFO after reading about it in her local paper, 'It was a big orange plate shape and seemed to hover above Halton Castle' she said. A flurry of other sightings soon followed and the local papers had a field day, a Mrs S. 49 said she saw a strange white light around 9:30 pm, it seemed to travel along a built up area and then hovered above a local Asda store beaming down rays of light from search lights. The UFO was described as being 300ft long by another witness. A Mr C 53, was travelling with friends towards the Runcorn - Widness bridge when he saw a cigar shaped UFO with flashing lights along its length, the lights were flashing as described by Mr C. 'in a very odd sequence' the UFO was also described as travelling in a very haphazard manner. A Grangeway resident Mr. J 68 said that he saw a bright orange object near to the Runcorn - Widness bridge, he says that the object was round and as it moved away from the bridge he could see that it had lights underneath, even the local headmaster of the Brow school of Halton Lodge reported seeing strange light at Daresbury as he returned to Runcorn in a car with some of his colleagues, the UFO had a set of diamond shaped rays of light fanning out from it he said but the light was somehow divided into separate sections and he couldn't find a suitable scientific explanation for what he'd seen.



The Runcorn UFO
sucking water
from the Mersey

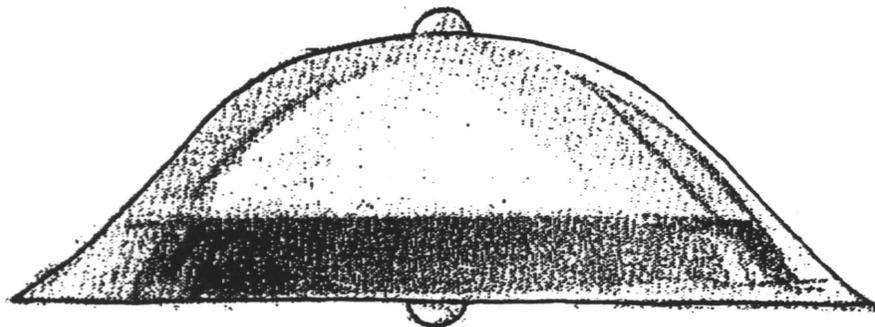
One of the occupants of the mystery UFO was spotted by a Mr M. 30 from Ellesmere Port, he was travelling to work at Calton Press on the Manor Park Industrial Estate in Runcorn and had just passed junction 12 of the M56 at Clifton when he saw a glowing

yellow / orange figure moving fast across the road bridge above him, the figure was about the size of a small child or dwarf he said.

The mystery UFO then left Runcorn and made its way towards Widness still flying along the Mersey Estuary stopping briefly to buzz the residents at Castlefields and Helsby and finally appearing in the skies above Ellesmere Port.

On March 11th at around 7pm, 15 year old Steven Farrell was sitting in his home when he heard a ' Very loud metallic whooshing sound ' he went outside to find out just what could be making this sound and it was then that he first saw the UFO. Although it was some distance away he was able to make out the shape of the object (see sketch) he claims to have seen the object again half an hour later and he described 3 lights, two yellow and one central red light which flashed steadily whilst the two yellow lights flashed alternatively. Stephen was adamant that what he saw was not a plane or helicopter. Another sighting on the same day was witnessed by none other than my own Mother who says that she observed a strange metallic looking object travelling across the sky whilst she was waiting for a bus near great Sutton. Very early the next morning at 1:15am, Gary Caslin an Ellesmere Port student was driving along Overpool Road, near Rossmore road when his attention was turned towards a large bright white light flickering above some houses about half a mile away from where he was, the light then suddenly dropped behind some houses and appeared to hit the ground however no noise was heard, also travelling in the car with Gary was a very good friend of mine whose word I would always sincerely trust.

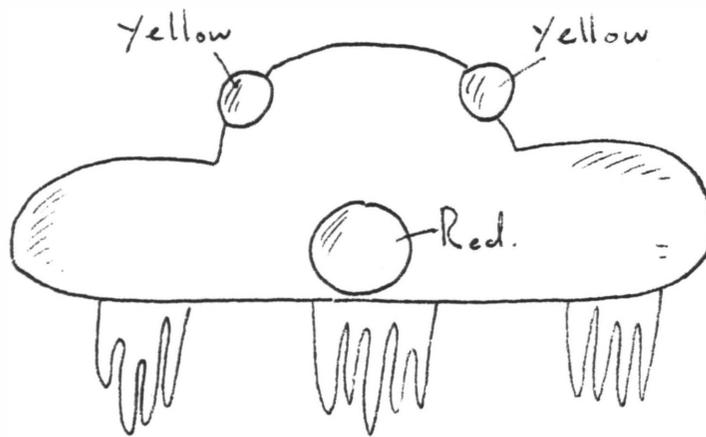
Domed or bell shaped.



Members of b.u.f.o.r.a including myself have been homing in on the latest sightings, especially around the Runcorn - Widness bridge area, many of which hold organised nightly vigils. Myself and my co - Ellesmere Port study group partner, Richard White have had our own sky watches but so far have seen no trace of the mystery object, has it finally left the area? It would be interesting to read of any other reports of a similar UFO further up or down the country, I'm sure we haven't heard the last of this one. What is interesting though is that very similar UFO's over the Runcorn area were being reported almost exactly a year ago. There appears to be a lot more sightings of UFO's over the Mersey during the last few years, many Ufologists believe that the Mersey is a window area for UFO's, sightings of UFO's in the north west of England are steadily increasing. Why? According to b.u.f.o.r.a. Ellesmere Port has become an area of special interest around the world, apparently tourists now travel from overseas simply to see the town for themselves, in a way its a bit like Ufologists from Britain travelling

to Gulf Breeze or Roswell (however the growing population of skin heads at Ellesmere Port would convince anyone that the town was populated by Aliens !)

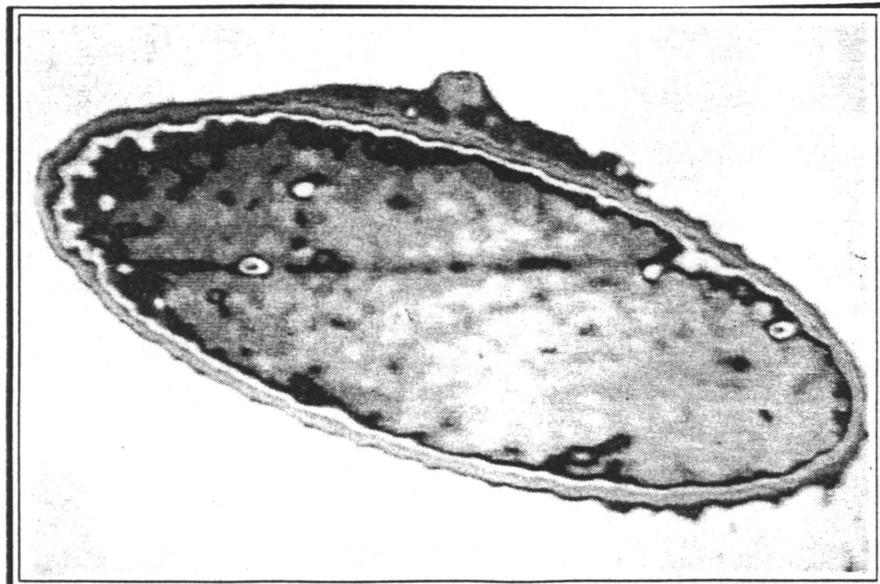
Jenny Randles believes that there are reasons why these areas may be of special interest to Aliens, she thinks that they might be attracted by the amount of industry and are studying our technological advances. Many sightings of UFO's world-wide have occurred above or near industrial plants. Another possibility is that some areas are made of a special type of Quartz rock, especially Helsby Hill and this may attract Aliens.



Steven Farrell's sketch of the UFO he saw on two occasions.

After studying this recent wave of sightings and talking to witnesses I have to admit it is of great interest to me and I'm sure to any other UFO investigators purely for the amount of independent witnesses all with similar reports, there is no doubt in my mind that they have all been describing the same UFO, metallic by day, luminous by night, a circular saucer shaped object with a triangular / diamond set of lights underneath. But what it is and where it from as ever is a mystery.

I would like to hear from anybody who has any information on the possible whereabouts of the UFO. Write to THE ELLESMERE PORT UFO STUDY GROUP, 76 LOXDALE DRIVE, ELLESMERE PORT. L65 7AN.



IS THERE A MONSTER IN LAKE BALA?

I was seated at my desk, caught up in the liturgy of complaints and the ritual of wishes that encompass the interminable hours of the dreaded 9 to 5, when somebody sought to lighten my mood by telling me a joke;

"Guess what, Lee. There's a Monster been sighted in Bala Lake!!!"

I'm not at all sure exactly what that person expected my reaction to be. I mean, such a weak and uninspired stab at humour(?) wasn't ever likely to win the BAAFTA 'Side-Splitting Gag Of The Year' award, and the teller must've anticipated nothing more than a wry grin or a cursory roll of the eyeballs, at best.

However, such was the sheer absurdity of the concept, I found myself laughing so hard I almost fell off my chair, and tears streamed down my face with such force, they could have powered a small hydro-electric plant...

Don't get me wrong. I'm not at all sceptical about the existence of Lake Monsters. I like to think I'm open-minded on the subject. And if the person had've told me "something strange" had been sighted in the Scottish lochs of Ness, Linnhe, or Morar. The Irish Ree. The Swedish Storsjon. The Canadian Champlain Or the Russian Khaiyr, I would have shown great interest. But Bala...less than 40 miles from Liverpool. A place where I've spent many a holiday and where water sports and other commercial activity is rife...You simply HAD to be kidding, right.

I was still braying like a donkey half an hour or so later, and it's my guess I wouldn't have been able to stop right up until the time came to clock off, if it hadn't have been for the fact that the very same person who told me the joke, approached my desk, and slipped the late edition of 'THE LIVERPOOL ECHO' across to me. It was already opened at a specific page. A page emblazoned with a banner head-line I couldn't very well miss had I wanted to;

'THE BEAST OF BALA'

An undeniably strange 'animal' was pictured directly below the heading.

A predominantly Crocodile-type creature with a curious hump on its back.

I felt the slightly inane grin fall from my face like an out of control elevator. The hilarity was replaced by disbelief, bewilderment, and finally a sense of wonder...

And just thirty minutes and three phone calls later, we were heading out to Bala for the weekend, to find out for ourselves if there was any substance to the story...

But first, there was a small matter of a trip to the ever-reliable Civic-Centre Library, to engage in a spot of research...

Surprisingly enough, I discovered there did exist a Water Monster tradition at Bala Lake, a fact that heartened me greatly, as I believed it at least leant a fair degree of credence to the account I'd read in the local press.

I was even more amazed to find that the region around the lake was considered by some paranormal reseachers to be something of a 'Window Area' with reports of UFO's and Alien Big Cat sightings also being made in the area.

For example, on 4th October, 1974, a man named George Longworth was driving past Bala Lake with his wife, cousin and granddaughter, when he suddenly noticed a light like a 'blinding sun' that flashed over his car, and left behind a grey powder on his vehicle. George stated later that he saw antenna-like protrusions on the object and that he was terrified by the incident; 'I literally headed for the hills. I drove so hurriedly in fact that it looks like I've ruined the gears on my car". And he wasn't the only one to see the object. Other motorists were brought to a stop too.

"I won't stick my neck out and say it was a flying saucer, but in my experience at least, it was most certainly an unidentified flying object".

This was all very interesting, but of course, what I wanted to see was whether ther had been any well-attested sightings of an unidentified creature in the lake...

There were several vague references to 'Water Spirits' and the myriad shapes and forms of the

denizens of 'Faerie'....

But the only 'hard' evidence I would wish to record here, is the sighting reported in the archives of 'THE WEST SHROPSHIRE STAR' (17th October, 1979).

A Mrs. Anne Jones saw something strange as she was being driven by the lake in October, 1979. She very briefly, but nonetheless clearly, spotted a large, hump-backed creature which emerged from the foaming water.

She decided to tell the local greengrocer, John Rowlands, who lives in Bala, what she'd seen, and he informed her of an even closer sighting of his own. He'd been fishing one day with his cousin when they suddenly saw something coming towards them.

"It had a head like a football and rather big eyes. We could see the body which was eight and a half feet long. It wasn't aggressive at all. It swam towards us to within a few yards and then turned and disappeared. I wouldn't say I had seen a Monster. It was just a long being. But I have caught some rather big Pike in the lake before now and it was bigger than any of those."

The lake warden, Dewi Bowen, also claimed to have seen a hump-backed creature in the lake, although no details are forthcoming...

I learned also, that Bala is directly on the Bala Fault-line....Which may or may not have a degree of significance in this case ('Window Areas' are more often than not situated on Fault-Lines).

A telephone conversation with our very own Roy Kerridge, revealed that he too had heard of the 'Beast Of Bala', and stated that he remembers reading somewhere, in an obscure book about Welsh Folklore, that Bala Lake was credited with being the lair of strange entities...

So although it could hardly be claimed that I'd uncovered a plethora of information...At least there was SOMETHING to show for my efforts....

Now all that remained was to get the tents together, throw some clothes into an overnight bag, and drive on out to Bala...

In search of a mystery.

Bala Lake is four miles long and in some places is over 100 ft deep. There are said to be underwater caves lining its walls and, as we have already heard, it is blessed with a high fish population. It's only about 40 minutes drive from the centre of Merseyside, and our party arrived at the popular campsite some time around 7:30 pm.

Almost as soon as we set foot on the camp, Richie told us he had overheard a couple of people at the entrance gate talking about THE BEAST, but by the time we donned our newshound hats and got round there to glean some details, they'd gone.



Our first view of Bala Lake and its imposing mountains as we drove a few miles outside the small, olde worlde town of Bala itself.

I must be honest, here and now, the atmosphere surrounding the lake, and at the enormous camp-site in particular, was devoid of any sense of the mystical. Unlike Loch Ness, where you are immediately struck by the twin-born feelings of awe-struck wonder and a dark foreboding. Feelings that persist, even on bright, sunny days (not that you get that many of those in the Highlands of Scotland, mind).

Here, it was actually less easy to accept the possibility of a 'Monster' than it was reading the 'Echo' article in the cosy, comfort of my office.

Still, undaunted, we set off into the town (after our compulsory game of footie. A game which ended with an embarrassing defeat against a bunch of kids who's average age was no older than 13) armed with a notepad and a set of open-minds...



Another view of the lake taken from the northern shore....Far once, the surface is free of water traffic. Then again, it was only early in the season. The refugees from 'BAYWATCH' will be here in their hordes come high Summer, make no mistake.

A decision was taken upon us reaching the first (and by no means LAST) pub that due to the less than brilliant bank holiday weather, we might well have to head back home the very next day, and so, with heavy hearts we set about drowning our sorrows.

The night wore on. And just when it seemed as though we were destined to go home empty handed, the intrepid Stevie Gee managed to collar a man who claimed he had seen "Something in the lake", but was typically vague as to what it could have been. Seeing that we were extremely interested in the subject, he introduced us to a 'girlfriend', who claimed that although she herself had never seen anything, her father HAD.

She was a bit sketchy on the details...Perhaps the fact that she didn't know whether to trust any of us or not, I don't know. What she DID impart was a tantalising, tale of how her father had taken a picture of THE BEAST OF BALA' but the photo had either been denounced as a fake by 'The Experts', or else WAS a blatant hoax aimed at the local press who had apparently been running a series of stories about the BEAST.

Ambiguous information, or what?

Anyway, one thing that did strike me was the fact that the locals we got to speak to, seemed reasonably at ease with the notion of a Monster existing in the lake just a few miles from their homes...

By that I mean, they didn't regard us as a bunch of drunken idiots who were asking questions about something so ludicrous, it defied belief. You try walking into your local tonight and asking the regulars have they heard about the Monster in the lake just down the road and see what reaction you get...

It wouldn't be "Oh, I think there's possibly SOMETHING there" I can tell you.

Maybe I'm grasping at straws here..The fact is, we didn't manage to gather one slice of what

could reasonably be termed as evidence in our admittedly short stay in Bala. But neither did we come away believing that the whole thing was nothing more than some shrewd attempt to entice a few more early season tourists to Bala...(After all, it was a bank holiday weekend when the story below was published)..

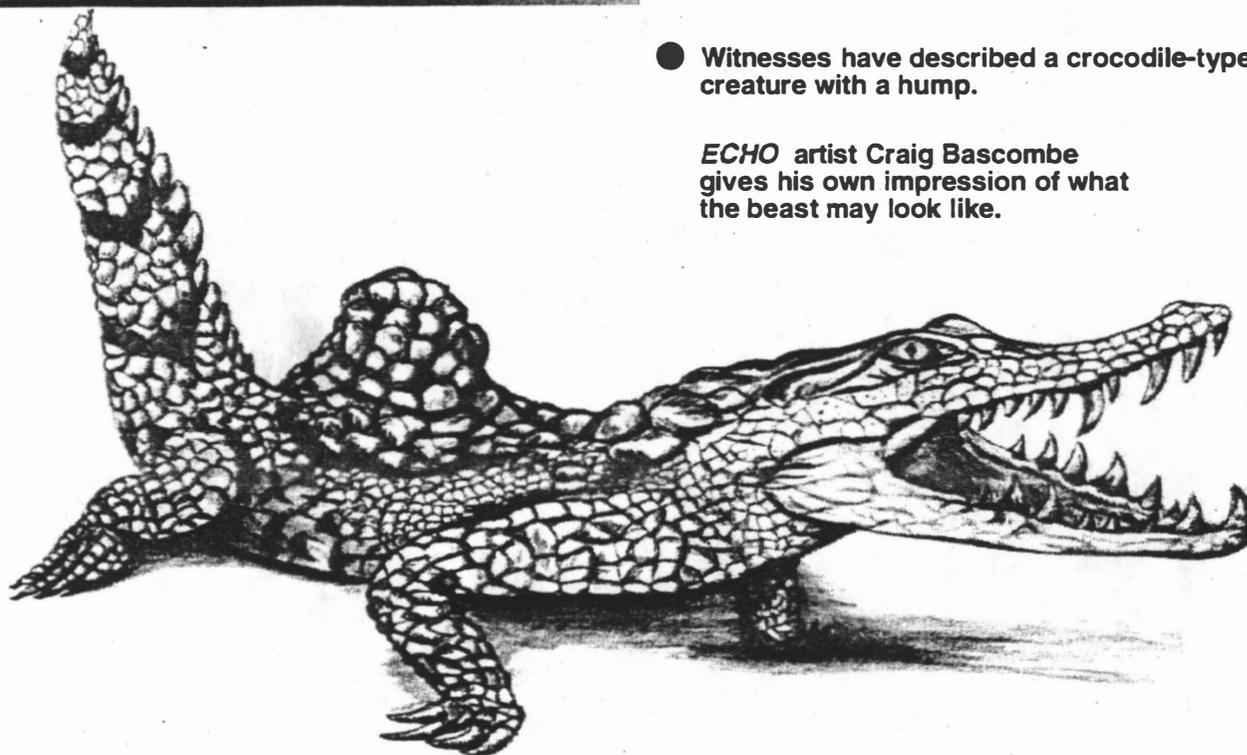
And, when you get right down to it, that's the real beauty of trying to chase the impossible....You can never hope to catch up with it, so the expectations whilst never met, are eternally raised at the slightest encouragement....Together with the wildly comforting thought that maybe next time.....

Lee Walker. New Ferry, Merseyside. 26th May 1995.

—Scientists hunt Nessie's little sister to solve lake mystery—

BEAST OF BALA

CREATURE OF THE DEEP



● Witnesses have described a crocodile-type creature with a hump.

ECHO artist Craig Bascombe gives his own impression of what the beast may look like.

● The Beast... an *ECHO* artist's impression of what the creature may look like if it is ever found by the scientists

LIVERPOOL University officials are hoping to make a new discovery in the hunt for a lake monster.

Claims have been made for more than 30 years that the creature lives in the depths of Lake Bala in Snowdonia.

Last week fisherman reported seeing a "grey crocodile like monster with a hump in the middle."

Creature

Now the university — who run a scientific site on the shores of the three-mile-long lake — have stepped in to try and solve the mystery.

The team will bring in state-of-the-art equipment to scour the lake for signs of the eight-foot creature with a hump on its back.

Dr Rick Leah, of the environmental and evolution-

ary biology department, who is masterminding the plan, is sceptical that a monster is roaming the depths.

But he said: "The machine will record large moving objects in the lake and so if it's there we will find it."

The equipment will also record levels of a rare breed of fish found in the lake.

Lake manager Dilwyn Morgan said: "I have never seen it myself but there is a possibility.

"The lake is 50 metres deep in some places and very dark and murky so we don't know what the bottom is like.

"If there is a monster, there is plenty of deep water to hide in and there could be caves at the bottom."

By Julie Gatenby

MONSTER MYTHS

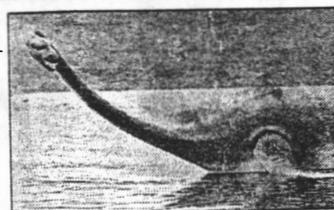
● A submarine was launched in Loch Ness two years ago to give tourists the chance to hunt for the famous Nessie.

● The legend of the Scottish loch brings in more than £20m a year from tourism, according to a recent survey.

● The mystery monster cat known as the Beast of Bodmin is one of the country's only legends to leave behind a trace... large footprints and savaged sheep.

● Nearly 20 years ago, Japanese trawlermen hauled up a huge carcass off the coast of New Zealand which looked every inch like a long-necked sea monster.

● Buckets of British lager were



● Could this be Nessie?

left out in the Himalayas by explorer Bill Grant in a bid to trap the Abominable Snowman. Local Nepalese people claimed to have attracted the beast with their home brew.

A Carnival of MONSTERS

THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EYES!

THEY COULDN'T ESCAPE THE TERROR!

AND NEITHER WILL YOU!

THE SEA'S
MASTER-BEAST
OF THE AGES—
RAGING UP
FROM THE
BOTTOM
OF TIME!



WARNER
BROS.
PRESENT

"The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms"

CAST OF THOUSANDS! OVER A YEAR IN THE MAKING!

PAUL CHRISTIAN · PAULA RAYMOND · CECIL KELLAWAY · KENNETH TOBEY · JACK PENNICK

YOU'LL
SEE IT TEAR
A CITY
APART!

NAME: THE BEAST FROM HAUNTED CAVE.

DESCRIPTION: *A low grade B-movie HUMANOID MONSTER enshrouded in Spider-webs and capable of imprisoning its victims in cocoons.*

CATEGORY: *A not-so-classic Film Monster.*

SOURCE: *Filmgroup 1959.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *I must confess, I don't know an awful lot about this Creature...I've never seen the movie, but apparently, it involves a rather immobile entity (in that respect it doesn't sound TOO disimilar from the 'Alien menace' of IT CONQUERED THE WORLD'), which is intent on decimating a bunch of gangsters residing in a ski-lodge. And that's about it, really....*

NAME: THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS

DESCRIPTION: *A Prehistoric Monster (in actuality, a Rheasauros - a fictional Dinosaur.*

CATEGORY: *A Ray Harryhausen Classic Film Creation.*

SOURCE: *Warner Brothers 1953.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *The first of the 'Giant-Atomic-Monster-On-The-Loose' movies that spawned a million imitations, though not many of 'em were fit to hold a candle to THIS cult classic, in terms of special effects or production values...*

Based on 'The Foghorn', a short story by Ray Bradbury, the plot concerns a huge Prehistoric animal accidentally revived by one of those enviroment UN-friendly nuclear tests somewhere out in the white wastes of the Arctic. The Rheasauros, initially glimpsed through a heavy snowstorm as it attacks a couple of army scientests, is an impressive looking Beast. The man responsible for the excellent stop-motion animation was one of my all-time cinematic heroes; Ray Harryhausen...It was his first film since he'd helped out as assistant to the 'father of stop-motion, Willis (KING KONG) O' Brien., on 'MIGHTY JOE YOUNG'.



And after that unashamed slice of adulation, back to the plot. Paul Christian, the obligatory romantic hero, survives the attack by the Monster in the frozen wastes and

tries to set about warning a disbelieving world of the threat that faces them. He even manages to make reference to the Monster reported existing in a Scottish loch - though somewhat amusingly, he states that it has been repeatedly sighted in Loch Lomond...NOT Loch Ness, as the film's script-writers surely intended. He eventually convinces an aging paleontologist, (Cecil Kellaway), and his typically gorgeous daughter (Paula Raymond), and we get our first full view of the creature when the Dinosaur expert goes hunting the monster in the claustrophobic confines of an underwater diving-bell. Not too surprisingly, the hunter soon becomes the hunted, and after killing the old man, the Rheasuros heads off in the direction of New York, and a mere twenty years after KONG had run amok, the city streets are once more terrorised by a creature intent on trampling all over its inhabitants. After causing untold damage in and around Times Square and WallStreet, it eventually winds up at Coney Island...Once there, it decides it doesn't much care for the funfair rides, and elects instead to take huge bites out of the 'Cyclone Rollercoaster'.

Lee Van Cleef, (in a small role, long before he set off into the badlands of Mexico in search of a fistful of the ol' greenstuff) hits upon the idea of shooting it up with an atomic isotope, and guess what, guys and gals, as it happens, it works!!!

The Rheasuros bites the dust and Uncle Sam is spared the threat of total destruction...
Until the NEXT time, that is....

NAME: THE BEAST IN THE CELLAR.

DESCRIPTION: A God-awful Monster who looks like that fella from the introduction to the brilliant 'MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS'. Y'know. The one with the wild hair and the unruly beard, who stumbles across deserts, races up and down mountains, or crawls from the sea to mutter "It's....2

CATEGORY: A cop-out-bottom-of-the-barrel-type Monster.

SOURCE: Tigon Films. 1971.

BRIEF HISTORY: The above description may give you a good idea of just how unutterably bad this film is...

I mean, it's not even laughably awful in the way say that 'PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE'. and 'THE ALLIGATOR PEOPLE' are.. Never mind the skinflint budget...This is merely an ultra-cheapo excuse for a lack of creative imagination.

Avoid like the plague.

NAME: BEAST OF BLOOD.

DESCRIPTION: A mad doctor creates an absolutely disgusting creature that's basically humanoid, but with burned-looking, flaky skin, a set of vicious looking fangs, and a misshapen head that has a nasty habit of falling off and rolling down the street at the most inopportune moments. Oh, and it bleeds green blood too.

CATEGORY: Revolting Result Of Experiment Gone Horribly Wrong.

SOURCE: Hemisphere Films (Philippines/US) 1976.

BRIEF HISTORY: On the aptly named Blood Island (sounds to me like one of the Cinematic World's TOP TWENTY Venues To Stay Well Clear Of....The other nineteen being - in no particular order - 1: Castle Dracula. 2: Anywhere ELSE in Transylvania. 3: The Tomb of Anaka. 4: Elm Street. 5: Skull Island. 6: 112, Ocean Avenue, Amityville. 7: The Pennywise-haunted streets of Derry, Maine. 8:Hobb's End, Knightsbridge. 9: The House Of Usher. 10: Frankenstein's Laboratory. 11: The Rue Morgue. 12: Bates Motel. 13: Hill House. 14: The Black Lagoon. 15: Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. 16: The Slaughtered Lamb public house. 17: The Overlook Hotel. 18: Camp Crystal Lake, and, last but not least, Haddonfield, Illinois, on Halloween Night...), the resident mad scientist, for reasons best known to himself, turns a hapless human into the title Monster above.

The horrifying creation was so stomach-churning, thoughtful theatre owners handed out airplane barfbags to their viewing customers!!!

Judging from the illustration on the following page, they may well have needed them.



NAME: *THE BEAST OF HOLLOW MOUNTAIN.*

DESCRIPTION: *A cumbersome, jerky looking Tyrannosaurus with a flickering, snake-like tongue.*

CATEGORY: *Cinematic Dinosaur.*

SOURCE: *United Artists Films. 1956.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *Here's something of a rarity. A combination of two widely different genres; The Western and The Monster Movie.*

The late, great Willis O' Brien (director of the original KING KONG. 1933), had often toyed with the idea of Cowboy versus Dinosaur-type film. He even went so far as to pitch a Giant Ape against some lasso-wielding showmen in his 1949 classic; 'MIGHTY JOE YOUNG'.

The premise, to all intents and purposes, is an undeniably good one. And had O' Brien actually realised his dream, this could well have been an above-average MONSTER-ON-THE-LOOSE movie.

Unfortunately, he made the grave mistake of selling his storyline to the Nassour Brothers at United Artists....For some totally unknown reason, they failed to hire Willis to do the animation....The end result is predictably shoddy and anti-climatic.

Three quarters of the way into the film, you could be forgiven for thinking the director (Edward Nassour and Ismael Rodriguez) had decided against making a Monster movie after all. Most of the action surrounds the usual bad guy/good guy/helpless heroine stuck in the middle type of plot-line you come across in all those old Saturday morning matinees they occasionally re-run as a programme filler when the Cricket's been rained off yet again...

And when finally, the creature IS introduced, you can see it's pretty plain just WHY they elected to keep it out of sight for so long.

Admittedly, it does look fairly impressive on the publicity stills and on the poster advertising the film, but how often have we been fooled by THAT gimmick, ladies and gents?

If you want to see a really excellent example of how this sort of thing SHOULD and COULD have been

done, you could do worse than check out Ray Harryhausen's very similar (plot-wise) 'VALLEY OF GWANGI'.



Promotional poster for the film that could have been O' Brien's realisation of a life-long dream....'THE BEAST OF HOLLOW MOUNTAIN'.

NAME: THE BEAST OF LE GEVUADAN

DESCRIPTION: A creature that reportedly walked on two legs, and was covered with short, reddish hair and had a pig-like snout. It was as big as a donkey and had rather short ears, a set of horns and a long tail.

CATEGORY: *Legendary Creature.*

SOURCE: *French Cryptozoological Entity.*

BRIEF HISTORY: Back in 1754, a girl from the French village of Saint Etienn de Lugdares, was found horribly mutilated and with her heart torn out. Her corpse was discovered in a rugged, mountainous region of Le Gevaudan, and turned out to be the first recording killing in what was to be the beginning of a three-year reign of terror. Within days, reports began to filter in of further killings of children, usually as they were tending sheep and cattle out in the fields. For several days during that Summer, something resembling panic overtook the local peasants, but when there were no additional murders, life slowly began to return to normal. Then, in August of that year, a woman from the village of Langogne reportedly sighted an unbelievable creature (see description above) and, not surprisingly, no-one gave much credence to her account. However, their scepticism was shattered when Jean-Pierre Pourcher, a man known for his honesty, reported seeing much the same thing. He stated that he had fired his musket at the thing, but he either missed it altogether, or else the bullet had no effect.

And the children began to be killed again.

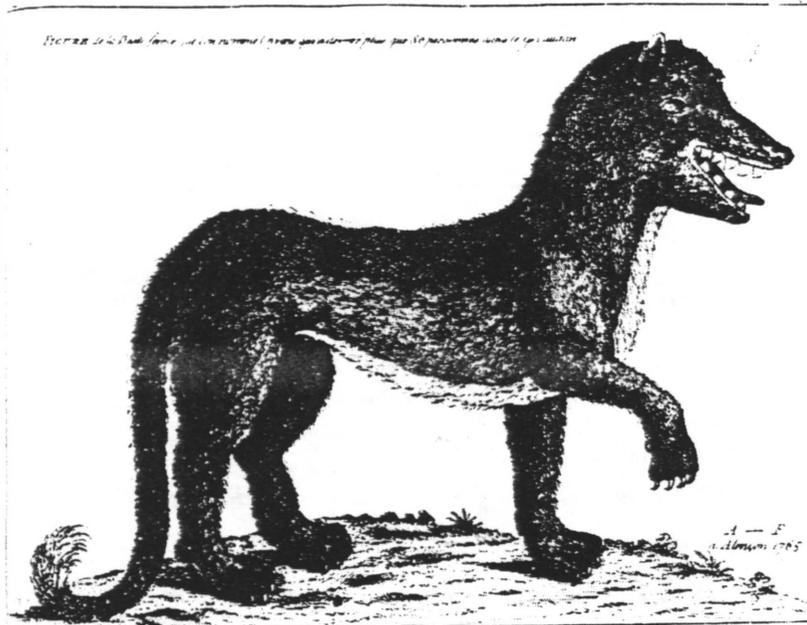
The local people strongly suspected that a LOUP-GAROU/WEREWOLF was at large and so prevalent did the attacks become that, eventually, even the king became concerned enough to dispatch a company of soldiers to hunt down the beast.

In February 1765, the platoon duly arrived in the area, and almost immediately, they encountered their quarry. They opened fire on the creature but it managed to give them the slip by running into the dense underbrush. Although no corpse was ever recovered, the soldiers believed they had mortally wounded the Beast...And the fact that the killings ceased for a while, seemed to be confirmation of this.

With the coming of another Summer however, the terror began anew.

A fresh appeal to the king fell on deaf ears. until the following year, 1766. A second military task-force was sent out, but instead of heading directly for Le Gevaudan, they went to an area nearby where a 'Great Wolf' had been reportedly sighted. The soldiers were successful in slaying a large Wolf and this they claimed was the BEAST OF LE GEVAUDAN.

Once again, they were wrong...



Several villages had to be abandoned in 1767, so great was the fear amongst the local populace in the wake of re-newed attacks.

In June of that year, a local nobleman decided enough was enough, and together with several like minded individuals, he organised a hunt for the Monster.

On June 19th the creature was surrounded in a patch of woods at Le Sgne d' Auvert. One of the hunters, Jean Chastel had deemed it wise to load up with silver bullets, and when he saw the Beast he fired two shots - the second hit the Monster in the head and it died almost immediately.

The carcass had to be buried due to the fact that it soon began to decompose. Tourists can still see the remains of the Monster are said to be buried...

NAME: BEAST OF THE YELLOW NIGHT

DESCRIPTION: *A snarling, crusty-faced Monster/a transformed Devil worshipper.*

CATEGORY: *Cinematic DEMON.*

SOURCE: *New World (US/Philippines) Film. 1971.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *Not a lot I can tel you here, fokks. All I can say is that a disciple of the DEVIL begins killing people and absorbing their evil. He eventually becomes the snarling, crusty-faced Monster refered to above.*

Oh, and when he/IT isn't murdering or having a bout of sex, he/IT can always ponder on the nature of God and the DEVIL

Heaven help us, a philosophical Monster!!!

Not an all-time classic, by any means...

Another one to aviod, methinks.

NAME: THE BEAST OF YUCCA FLATS

DESCRIPTION: *An invisible Atomic mutation...If you can dig that.*

CATEGORY: *Bottom-Of-The-Barrel Monster.*

SOURCE: *Crown International. 1961.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *Tor Johnsons, the 'star' of the infamous PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE'. plays Russian atomic scientest chased into the blazing desert by gun-toting Communist agents. Mr. Johnson's giant frame is caught in the blast of an atomic bomb and he is reduced to 'nothing'. He elects to live in a cave, carry a big stick and after killing people, eats their hair. In the words of DEACON BLUE; "It Just Gets Worse!!!".*

NAME: THE BEAST OF TRURO.

DESCRIPTION: *A mysteriously vague creature who's only definite reported feature is a long tail shaped like the letter 'J'*

CATEGORY: *Creature From The Outer Edge.*

SOURCE: *Reported sightings in Cape Cod, Massachusetts during 1981.*

BRIEF HISTORY: *After several mangled cats were found in the vicinity of the town of Truro, a spiralling succession of attacks on animals by a mysterious assailant, broke out. People began reporting hearing strange noises at night and despite no-one managing to ger a good, long look st whatever was responsible for the mutilations/killing of cats/cattle etc. Perhaps it was our old friend THE BEAST WITH A 1,000,000N EYES' out to cause untold mischief...*

NAME: THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS.

DESCRIPTION: *One of the entites that has spawned a whole host of imitators that more or less amount to an entire sub-genre. Quite simply, a disembodied, crawling HAND*

BRIEF HISTORY: *The hand of a dead pianist comes back to haunt a house in Italy, and does all the usual things these amputations with an attitude are apt to do (See the hand in THE EVIL DEAD II, DR. TERROR'S HOUSE OF HORRORS, THE HAND and many others for comparasion. In one wonderful scene, it even gets to play the piano. Or does it???)
Perhps the only 'haunting' here is taking place in the tortured mind of Peter Lorre? Perhps its all an illusion.
But then again...*



NAME : THE BEAST WITH 1,000,000 EYES.

DESCRIPTION: *Not quite the Monster you'd expect judging from the title....In fact, the Alien Being in this movie only has TWO eyes....It does however, possess the ability to see through the eyes of the earth animals it controls.*

CATEGORY: Alien Entity.

SOURCE: ARC Films 1955.

BRIEF HISTORY: An Alien life-form lands in the desert and sets about taking possession of the local species of animals including domesticated cattle. Rancher Paul Birch is savaged by his own cows, birds, even his pet dog. The Beast of the title can also control retarded humans and it duly takes over the body of a spooky-looking farm-hand named 'Him' (I bet it took them months to come up with that slice of cinematic brilliance.) Nice bit of improvisation there too by wily ol' Roger Corman...You've got to hand it to the man, it's a nifty way of giving the film a catchy-sounding title and managing to wriggle out of only showing a two-eyed creation (unlike the fil's poster art) by a play on words...



The Beast of Gwaenysgor

Two magnificent beasts stood proudly and protectively either side of a roaring log fire, they were carved exquisitely from wood and looked, as the infamous J.R. Hartly would say "rather old", just like the small and peculiar public house which surrounded them. I glanced at a clock hanging precariously from a nail on one of the walls, it was 7:45pm, my companion looked outside into the gloom of the evening, it was time to move, to get on with the job in hand. We finished our beer, pulled on our back packs and set off into the night in search of the Beast.

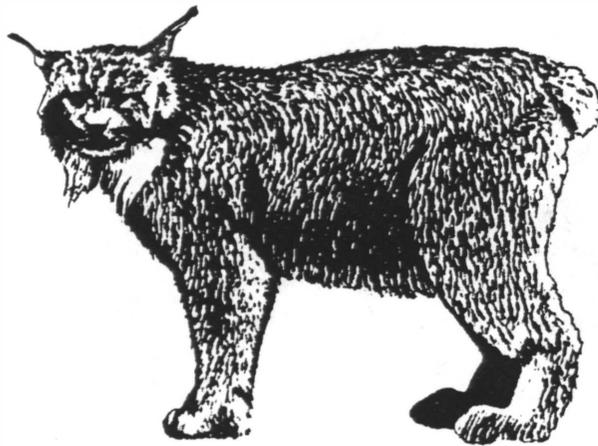
Meliden is a small village which sits in the middle of its two glittery neighbours, Rhyll and Prestatyn, it consists mainly of a couple of pubs, hotels, a church, a few shops and many narrow sinuous dark roads leading to the ancient Gwaenysgor which is backed by 700 ft - high hills and has a network of interesting walks and rambles. Until recently, Meliden, Gwaenysgor and surrounding areas enjoyed a state of tranquillity, but now many of the locals are fearful of an encounter with a mystery beast which has been seen wandering around fields and hills in the dead of night.



The Beast has been described as a big black cat and has been the subject of many local news reports. The Beast was first sighted when staff at the Graig Park Hotel And Country Club in Meliden saw it prowling steadily through the grounds, they described the Beast as looking like a panther and black in colour. The Beast has been seen a few times wandering about in fields between Meliden and Gwaenysgor, during last February one witness said that she had seen a large black animal walking down a lane close to her bungalow, whilst in March a young man after having read about the Beast in his local paper decided to go and investigate, armed with only a torch he proceeded to travel across roads and fields by Gwaenysgor and got a scare when he almost

tripped over the Beast, its green eyes shone in the light of his torch, he managed to make out the outline of the Beast which he said was a large black animal but definitely not a dog. The animal began growling at him at which point he fled and leapt over a nearby stile. He returned to Gwaenysgor the following weekend to enquire if any of the locals had lost any animals.

Myself and my companion Richard drove up to the fields by Gwaenysgor where the Beast is said to roam and set up an all night vigil with camcorders and various other pieces of equipment in the hope of obtaining some hard evidence of the existence of an ' Alien animal ' We changed locations several times during the night and at one point we were convinced that we were being stalked as we could hear loud rustling in some nearby bushes and grassy fields. We both couldn't help but notice just how quiet and lonely the area is, there are many dark roads and I mean very dark, which run almost around the whole perimeter of the area, there are many open fields filled with livestock backed by hills where an ' Alien animal ' could live in almost total seclusion, only coming down for a midnight snack only to disappear again without a trace.



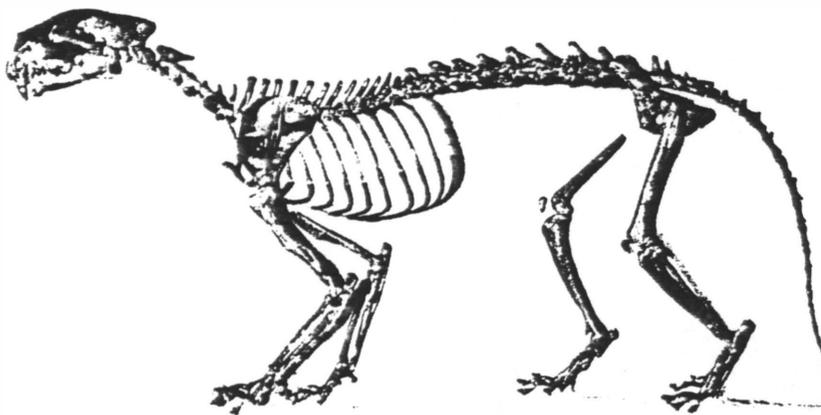
A Lynx. many reports of mystery cats seem to be this variety or the black leopard

Alas we both returned from our outing disappointed and without a sighting of the elusive Beast. Many people told me that it was pointless to go looking for it as it would probably be able to smell a mile away (I wasn't sure what to make of that comment!) and therefore would stay hidden until I'd gone, typical behaviour of one of the larger felines if that's what it was, but what about the reports of a prowling unselfconscious animal seen walking near houses?

I did a little research on sightings of cat like Beasts around Wales and came up with a few interesting ones. During October 1980 an unidentified animal was seen roaming around Churchstone and Llangurig in Powys leaving behind footprints, the Beast was described from reports as ' Lynx like '. Strange snoring sounds were heard coming from behind bales of straw in a local farmers barn, the farmer keeping in mind that four of his sheep had recently been killed in a way that was unlike a dog kill to which he had become accustomed decided not to investigate the snoring himself and called in the police who surrounded

the barn but found nothing except some foot prints, the Beast or whatever it was had vanished almost into thin air! Another village in Wales called Tonmawr had Beast trouble back in November 1981, the Beast was seen by many locals who described it as a large Grey cat and it was also photographed at long distance however the picture revealed hardly any details (as they frequently do!)

Could the mytery Beasts of today be the ghosts of ancient cats like the Dinitis or Smilodons or have they somehow survived in small numbers up to modern days



It appears that mystery cats are as popular today as the phantasmal black dogs centuries before as described in two previous articles in Dead of Night (see issue's 3+4) and it has been suggested by many people who have studied this phenomenon that earlier accounts of black dogs may well have been sightings of large cat like entities, this would give the Beast of Gwaenysgor and many others an ancient history.

I would like to hear from anybody who has any new information on the Beast of Gwaenysgor or any other Beasts for that matter. We plan to return to the area soon for another look so check out a future article if anything unusual turns up.

David Williams 95.



THE X-FILES

EPISODE GUIDE : PART ONE

File 1

The pilot episode sees Dana Scully assigned to work with Fox Mulder on The X-Files. The Bureau hierarchy want to know if Mulder is wasting time or whether his investigations will bear fruit. Mulder drags scully off to Coastal Northwest in Oregon to investigate a possible alien abduction. Members of the local high school Class of '89 keep dying in mysterious circumstances and one is in the local sanatorium. Investigation leads Muldur to discover that the boy in question is under alien control and that he leads the others to a remote site where they're abducted for experimentation. However, the evidence is destroyed in a fire. The episode ends with a small nasal implant used for mind control, being filed away in a secure room at the pentagon by an unfriendly looking gentleman. The government cover-up is underway.

File 2

Muldur decides to investigate the disappearance of a USAF test pilot from Ellins Air Base in S.West Idaho. His wife has reprted him missing after he was removed by the military suffering from a wierd illness. However, before he sets off Muldur is approached by a mysterious gentleman who advises him to stay away from the case. Muldur ignores the advice and he and Scully soon find themselves under fire from the military for snooping around the top secret base. Are the USAF testing thier own UFO's made from alien technology recovered from downed spacecraft, and are the test flights having an adverse effect on pilots? Muldur barely escapes with his life after a timely intervention by Scully, and manages to gain an ally in 'Deep Throat' - but does the mystery man have his own agenda? This episode is clearly based on the Area 51 debate.

File 3

Meet Eugene Victor Toomes. A genetic freak who, if he consumes the livers' of five victims at a time, can hibernate for 30 year cycles - a gruesome way to obtain immortality. In addition, he can contort his body to pass through the smallest spaces. Scully and Muldur are asked to assist in the investigation into the murder of his latest victim, which is being run by a friend of Scully's from the Academy. Ignoring the prejudice of his fellow agents, Muldur discovers that Toomes is responsible for a series of serial killings taking place in and around Baltimore in 30 year cycles. What's worse is that Scully's next in line for the Toomes treatment. The episode ends with Toomes in custody and preliminary tests showing some startling genetic mutations. Watch this space!

File 4

Muldur and Scully race to Sioux City, Iowa where a young local girl has reportedly been abducted by aliens whilst camping on the shore of Lake Okobogee. Muldur does some digging and discovers that the mother was involved in a previous UFO sighting whilst part of a pack of girl guides camping in the area. Are the two related? Meanwhile, the Bureau are becoming increasingly concerned about Muldur's investigations and Scully finds herself having to risk her reputation to back him up. The episode gives a little more insight into the abduction of Muldur's sister and its profound effect on his life.

File 5

A mutilated homeless corpse is found in the woods on the outskirts of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The corpse is missing an arm that appears to have been chewed off by a cannibal. This leads Muldur and Scully to recall tales of the 'Jersey Devil' - a type of bigfoot which is said to haunt the area. Although it's strictly an Atlantic City PD case, Muldur can't resist checking it out and spends the weekend in the drunk tank courtesy of the disgruntled local police. Tourism and gambling

X-FILES THE

are big business in Atlantic City and the police are going to hunt the murderer down their way - with maximum force. When the body of a wild-man is found in the woods Muldur realises that his mate, forced to fend for herself, could easily be responsible for the reports of a 'creature' stalking the homeless areas. Unfortunately, the police get to her first with tragic consequences.

File 6

Lauren Kite is a secretary at HTG Industrial Technologies, Philadelphia P.A. When her fatherly employer, Howard Graves, dies, Lauren becomes suspicious of his partner, Robert Dorlund, who is selling technology to terrorists. Fearing she knows too much he has the terrorists make an attempt on her life. When their bodies are found with throats crushed from the inside, together with some other unusual features, Muldur and Scully track down Lauren to find out what happened. It soon becomes clear that Howard Graves hasn't lost his fatherly instinct and he's intent on exposing his partner as a murderer. Muldur comes face to face (well metaphorically) with a poltergeist and the still-sceptical Scully once again misses the spectacle.

File 7

The Eurisko Corporation in Crystal City, Virginia, is witnessing a power struggle between its founder and technology guru, Brad Wilczick, and the CEO, Benjamin Drake. Eurisko has ploughed enormous resources into the development of the Central Operating System which virtually runs its automated tower block. The project is running huge losses and the board are going to terminate it against Wilczick's advice. However, The COS has developed artificial intelligence and it sets about *deleting* anybody who wants to turn it off. If this isn't enough for Muldur and Scully to contend with, they also face opposition from a government black operations group which wants the COS for its own purposes.

File 8

When communication to the Arctic Ice Core Project in Alaska is cut off, Muldur and Scully are dispatched, along with several scientists and a pilot, to discover what has happened. They find the Project scientists dead, apparently having fought among themselves. Shades of John Carpenter's '*THE THING*' here. They soon discover that the team had been taking samples of ice from an area hit by a meteorite millions of years ago. There is a parasite in the ice core samples that attaches itself to the spinal cortex and proceeds to stimulate aggression and paranoia in the host. The atmosphere thickens when it becomes obvious that one or more of the present team are infected - even causing suspicion between Muldur and Scully.

File 9

Perhaps the most forgettable file in the series, this episode sees Muldur and Scully investigate sabotage of the latest NASA shuttle mission. Is one of the ground crew under alien control and what is their agenda?

File 10

'Deep Throat' advises Muldur that there is a downed UFO in the Townsend area of Wisconsin. A recovery team is at the site and the cover up story of a toxic leak is already underway. With little time before the evidence disappears Muldur races to the site, avoiding armed sentries, and obtains a glimpse of the craft before he is captured. He is eventually collected by a disgruntled Scully who has been sent by the Bureau hierarchy to collect him. He is to face a disciplinary hearing and the X-Files project faces closure. Tension rises as a very hostile military conduct a search for the craft's occupants and Muldur attempts to prevent an abduction.

PART TWO OF THE EPISODE GUIDE NEXT MONTH

P.W.

AGE OF THE SPHINX

TIMEWATCH

by

Steve Griffiths

As the title suggests, this programme set out to establish the true age of the Sphinx. Believed by many Egyptologist's to have been built about the same time as the Giza Pyramids, (around 4,500 years ago) this great monument faces towards the east displaying the body of a lion with the head of a human being.

In Egyptian mythology the lion was known as the protector of sacred places, the head of the Sphinx was believed to be a representation of the Pharaoh King Cheferon, one can only surmise that the Sphinx was built to protect the pathway to the Pyramids.

That was the belief until a self taught Archaeologist came up with the theory that the Sphinx might pre-date the Pyramids by at least 4,000 years.

John Anthony West, has no degrees in Egyptology, but shows a real love and passion for Egypt. As a tour guide he tells people of the great civilizations from Atlantis, Lemuria and even of Extra-terrestrial life, who at some point in time might have colonized Egypt thousands of years ago. Dr. Mark Lehner of the University of Chicargo believes Jonh West provides the Tourists with an alternative new age tour.

Although John West's ideas are widely dismissed by experts all over the world, his views are not entirely without substantial evidence. He first set out to disprove that the Sphinx was a representation of the Pharaoh King Cheperon. Consulting a New York forensic scientist, Frank Domingo, he more or less proved that the facial characteristics where not in proportion with those of the Pharaoh King's.

His next task was to try to establish a date when the working of the rock from which the Sphinx is cut was carried out. For this he required the help of a Geologist. Professor Robert Schoch of the Boston University was one of the few Geologist's who would consider his controversial ideas.

To do this task he had to go to Egypt himself and examine the rocks erosion patterns. He observed that in some areas the rock around the Sphinx was much more eroded than in other areas, this type of weathering was unusual because the Sphinx is carved out of one solid piece of limestone bed-rock. Schoch carried out more tests and agreed that the more eroded areas of rock must date from a time before the Sahara Desert had set in. His Hypothesis is that the Egyptians of the old period found the figure and re-built the head. After a while the figure suffered erosion and the new kingdom Egyptians dug it out and repaired it. He now dates it from five to seven thousand B.C, about 4,000 years before the building of the Pyramids. John West believes the Sphinx was built to align with the sunrise during the Equinox in 10,000 to 8,000 B.C when the sun would rise between the paws of the Sphinx.

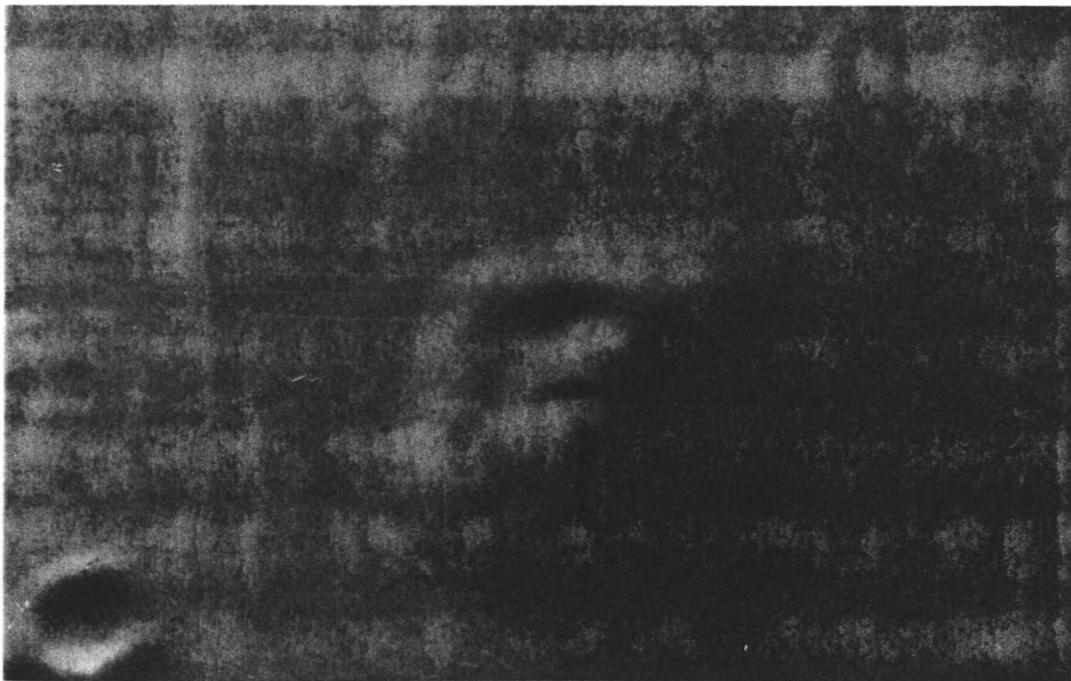
John West's ideas were beginning to point towards another civilization, the only problem was there was never any evidence of an earlier civilisation ever having existed in this earlier time.

Graham Hancock, author of the *Sign and the Seal*, and *Fingerprints of the Gods*, believes that the whole race could possibly have been wiped out during the Ice-Age, this being the reason for such lack of evidence.

To this point in the programme, John West might have been enlightening the viewer with some remarkable possibility about the re-writing of History. However for the last ten minutes he attempted to make a connection between a Martian colonisation of Earth, with the builders of the Sphinx.

Now bordering on the realms of science-fiction, he talks to Richard Hoagland who believes that the strange landforms on Mars are almost Simian, (monkey-like) and would be very similar to the Neanderthal type people who would probably have been around Egypt at the time of the building of the Sphinx.

It's not that I would not subscribe to these views but I would certainly need some more solid evidence before I expressed an opinion, but for me this program certainly shed some more light on the Ancient advanced civilizations that by now can not be denied by Historians..John West, along with such people as Robert Bauval and Adrian Gilbert, *The Orion Mystery* and David Fasold, (*The Discovery of Noah's Ark*, prove that all the research into our past is far from complete and our understanding of Ancient Civilization's, who we refer to as inferior, is even further from the truth.



"Elm Street"

"The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"

by

ROBERT ENGLUND

TOBE HOOPER

STEPHEN KING



There is a little piece of everybody in...

AN ANANT SINGH PRODUCTION

THE MANGLER

18

DISTANT HORIZON PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMEX (PTY) LTD AND ALLIED FILM PRODUCTIONS A TOBE HOOPER FILM ROBERT ENGLUND TED LEVINE "THE MANGLER" DANIEL MATMOB
 VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR STEPHEN BROOKS MAKE UP EFFECTS BY SCOTT WHEELER "THE MANGLER" CREATED BY WILLIAM HOOPER PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAVID BARKHAM EDITED BY DAVID HEITNER
 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AMNON SALOMON MUSIC SCORE COMPOSED BY BARRINGTON PHELOUNG EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HARRY ALAN TOWERS SUDHIR PRAGJEE SANJEEV SINGH HELENA SPRING
 SCREENPLAY BY TOBE HOOPER STEPHEN BROOKS AND PETER WELBECK BASED ON A SHORT STORY BY STEPHEN KING
 PRODUCED BY ANANT SINGH DIRECTED BY TOBE HOOPER



FROM FRIDAY 26th MAY