

Ness Information Service
Nessletter No 2
March 1974

This second Nessletter starts by correcting the first on a number of points. Bob Rines' 1973 gear was not designed by Professor Edgerton but by Dr. Charles Wyckoff, President of Applied Photo Sciences working in conjunction with Dr. Robert Rines and his Academy of Applied Science team. Also it was set to trigger the lights and cameras by sonar response from an object four-five feet thick, not 'long' as stated before. Tim Dinsdales film was taken in 1960 not 63. Tim also pointed out that his sighting was of a triangular hump which submerged and moved away underwater. The point I had meant to emphasise was that it was going across the loch. There are fewer reported sightings with movement in that direction; most report Nessie travelling down the length of the Loch.

Now onto fresh news items; with information on two new sightings. I am waiting for full details of a third: a very good close up sighting last November. The gentleman concerned, a local, gave an interview to B.B.C. and until it is televised he does not wish for details to be published. Steve Kirby, a N.I.S. member, sent word of a sighting last July 27th. His uncle, wife and son touring Scotland on holiday stopped in a lay-by on the A82 opposite Tor Point. Mr. Pugh, the uncle, noticed a sandbank about 100 yards offshore, his son watched it through binoculars for a short time and also assumed it to be a sandbank. Then a little while later they noticed it had gone. Mr Pugh thought the tide was rising and it was not till he was talking to Steve and showing him holiday snaps that Steve realised what his uncle had really seen. Steve made out a sighting report and had his uncle fill it in, he has sent me a photostat of it. Details are-Loch surface, Dead smooth. Viewing conditions: Sunny and fine. Wash/Wake: None. Texture: Smooth. Colour: Blackish brown. Size Size: 4/6ft, 100yds away. Shape: One hump. 'like sandbank', Position: as stated. Time: 11am-1pm approx. Time visible: Unknown.

A very interesting episode, and our thanks are due to Steve for putting a sighting report form together, covering the important items. As he said there must be many such incidents lost, because witnesses have no contact with anyone interested in Nessie, or knowledge of the loch, such as the fact it is fresh water and has no 'tides'.

The next sighting was by two Inverness men, County Council road workers. On February 8th at 3pm they were traveling towards Dores from Foyers;-

"We saw what appeared to be a serpent with a horse's head. It travelled east towards Dores and we were in a lorry and stopped at each lay-by to watch it. Then we followed it to the next clear space, stopped, got out, watched and returned to the lorry following it for about three miles. It had a wake like a submarine, made no sound, and the estimated length of sixty feet is no underestimation."
Signed: Henry Wilson, Andy Call.

Other details given are; Duration of sighting; About 15 minutes.

Position of witness: Shore opposite Urquart Castle.

Position of monster: 300 yds offshore; Foyers side.

Shape: Serpentine, Size: Sixty feet, approx.

Colour: Black. Texture: Smooth. Speed: 35 mph.

No boats in sight, no wind, smooth loch surface, calm and bright weather conditions.

Mr. Wilson expressed excitement and disbelief, as his first reactions.

Mr. Call, belief. He also said he had been travelling up and down Loch Ness for almost 35 years and until that day had never seen anything, or for that matter believed that the Monster really existed.

My own first reaction to this sighting was, 'here is another boat wake' but having more information now I feel it was a good sighting. Mr Call has spent so much time by the Loch he would recognise a boat-wake.

Now for some odd items of news. It has been a very mild winter up at Loch Ness but very wet, with terrific rain storms and much gale force wind. The reports of fresh-run salmon, "springers", as they are called, show good promise for the season which opened on 15th January. Salmon numbers indicate a better projected season than any of the past 7 or 8 years.

There are also signs that the salmon disease U.D.N. is not as much in evidence this year. Brigadier G.L. Prendergast landed the first salmon of the season, at the upper end of the loch, on 24th January, it was a fresh run fish of 9 pounds weight.

The L.N.I. has done a study on the number of monster sightings compared to the number of salmon running the Loch, and there seems to be a good relationship.

With regard to new items of underwater equipment. "Angus", has been successfully tried down to depths of 1.100 feet in a flooded mine shaft at Rothes colliery at Glenrothes Fife. "Angus", A Navigable General-purpose Underwater Surveyor, has been developed at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh as a remote controlled submersible vehicle, with a view to the commercial market; North Sea oil/gas and so on. It is scheduled to carry out test surveys from the ship "Challenger" off Shetland. Last August the equipment completed sea trials in Loch Linnhe, and is due also in the Firth of Forth. It has a closed circuit television "eye" and seems to have a real potential.

That winds up for this month. Please remember N.I.S. welcomes contributions. Your ideas, suggestions and news are of course vital to it - so please send them to me.

Rip.