

### Foyers Hydro-Electric Scheme.

On April 3rd Mr. William Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, formally opened the pumped storage station at Foyers. This scheme, costing £19.4 million is the second in the country, the first being at Cruachin Argyllshire. These stations are designed to use surplus power from large and efficient thermal stations at times of low demand, pumping water to a higher level from a lower one. This can then be used to generate power in times of high demand; in the case of the Foyers scheme it can feed 300 megawatts into the Boards Highland Grid within 3 minutes from standstill. Foyers also pioneers a microwave radio control system, the central control room being at Fort Augustus, 16 miles away, this also controls the Dochfour outlet at the northern end of Loch Ness; it is also connected to the Board's central control at Pitlochry, making it possible to pass instructions by push button operation, thus cutting out telephones.

An interesting thought for 'Nessophiles' will there be any effect on the environment? The water put back into Loch Ness could be a degree or two warmer and this may, as has happened in other places, lead to bigger and better fish, which may in turn bring more of the creatures to the Foyers area.

### Silly Season.

A group of firemen from Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, is to build a model monster from wood, oil drums and paper mache. The 20ft female monster is to be powered by two electric motors, and towed up to Loch Ness by a fire engine late in July. The object of the exercise is to raise money for their benevolent fund. About 10 years ago the Whittle Institute of Agriculture tried a somewhat similar stunt.

### "Barmy"

After a newspaper report concerning the sighting of a strange creature on a beach at Barmouth, Cambria (North Wales), I made further enquiries and came up with the following. On Sunday 2nd March 1975 six twelve year old school girls were on the beach at Llanaber about 200 yds from the northern end of the Barmouth promenade, when they saw a creature about 200 yds away. They said "The monster about 10ft long with a long tail, a long neck and huge green eyes. It was like a dinosaur, and walked towards the sea and entered the water." They reported the incident to the coastguards and police, but a search of the area produced no

clue as to what it had been. One of the girls added that it had large saucer like feet with three long pointed nails. This is the latest report of many, some going back 60/70 years. Twelve years ago a photograph was taken, but seemingly like so many of these taken of Nessie, was not very distinct. In 1937 a Mr Robert Jones encountered a weird crocodile-like creature walking along a river bank near Harlech, close by Barmouth. A few years ago four fishermen saw a strange beast raise itself up on some kelp-beds in the Menai Straights. This area would seem worthy of further investigation.

#### Loch Ness in the News

The Daily Mail of Tuesday 1st April published an article about the ceasing of operations by The Loch Ness Investigation, and interviewed Holly Arnold, who explained why this happened.

In The Reveille of April 11th there is mention of a "Dr Who" story based on Nessie, which is being filmed now and which is due for screening in August.

The April issue of 'Scottish Field' has an article entitled "The Loch Ness Monster Is It a Ghost?" It is a fairly detailed piece covering the geological formation of the British Isles with emphasis on the Scottish Highlands; and includes accounts of animal life in Jurassic times. Then it explains why we cannot find Nessie! The article states that The Plesiosaurs that swam by the shores of Loch Ness millions of years ago sent out electrical brain impulses, emitted as high frequency waves. These waves were picked up by the nuclei of the atoms in the rocks with the result that some component within them became excited by the extra energy. This energy has been leaking out ever since, and people with correctly tuned brains who are in the right position receive the signal and "see" the monsters. Yet another interesting theory?

#### N.I.S. at the Lochside

The response to my request for dates of intended visits to Loch Ness has been small. Ricky Gardiner was going up for about a week starting April 1st, he is hoping to go back up late in July or August, as a teacher he has a long summer holiday. His vehicle is a white Toyota Estate reg. TTJ 611M. John Berton, a Frenchman, called to see me on his way to the Loch on April 11th. He was up for about a week. I am hoping to be up July 25th - August 8th or thereabouts, my vehicle is a Land Rover station wagon KTY 984. Tim Dinsdale will be at Loch Ness June and July, small white boat drifting around. I had a note from Liz Montgomery

Campbell about Loch Morar. Interest is being maintained and various small groups still go up to Loch Morar from time to time, but because local feeling is so sensitive they do not advertise their presence and it is not possible to give any details.

(Please - anyone going up to Loch Ness who would like to meet other NIS members let me have details in time)

For the more affluent among us it is now possible to fly by jet from Heathrow, London, to Inverness because the airport at Dalcross was reopened on April 1st, after the runway was lengthened and strengthened. For motoring, the new bridge over Loch Leven at Ballachulish has been joined. It is expected to be ready for traffic by the end of September.

### Subscriptions

If you have not renewed your subscription please do so as soon as possible, or drop me a note so that I can reduce my card index.

I have been asked how our membership is distributed, this is how it breaks down: 31 English, 18 American, 7 Scottish, 2 Canadian, 2 Welsh, 1 Australian, 1 Belgian, 1 French and 1 Guatemalan member.

### Sad News

Some of the L.N.I. expedition members of 1970/1 may remember my father. On the evening of Saturday 15th March he was drowned. He had been making his way from home to the village for his regular half pint and chat with his friends, when he must have slipped on the riverside path and fallen in. I know many of you have memories of him and this news will be a shock.

Please remember news and views are welcome, and thank you to those who sent information for this newsletter.

Rip.

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Ness Information Service sends out bi-monthly newsletters to members interest in Loch Ness and what is happening there.

Subscription £1 a year U.K. \$ 5.00 U.S.A. Canada.

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(PLEASE TEAR OFF AND PASS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS)