

Ness Information Service

Nessletter No.11

October 1975.

Academy of Applied Science

No news yet as to exactly what new pictures and other evidence Bob Rines has to present, but there is to be a two day symposium held in Edinburgh early in December. I do not know who will attend but the general feeling I get from a number of different sources is that this is to be 'the big one', with representatives from a number of eminent scientific bodies attending.

Sighting

Early in October Mr. Rudolph Lipinski reported a very unusual sighting. He has been a lay worker at Fort Augustus Abbey for almost 30 years, during which time there have been a number of reported sightings by the monks. He was in the Abbey gardens which adjoin the River Tarff at about 6.30 p.m. when he heard loud splashing coming from the lower pool close to where the river enters Loch Ness. On running to the river bank he found himself only a few yards from a most extraordinary object; a large 'back' well clear of the water twisted around trying to free itself from the gravel bank it had apparently grounded on. He watched it for two or three minutes before it freed itself and got into deeper water and then made off into the loch leaving a distinct wash. Mr Lipinski was interviewed by the local press, and several experienced monster-hunters. Tim Dinsdale noted with interest that the witness admitted to being reluctant to approach the bank too closely. When asked why, he said he was afraid it might 'attack'. The thing was very large and very much alive! so this was understandable.

More Sighting Information

George Vyce, one of our Canadian members traced and contacted one of the Canadian girls who had a sighting on July 10th 1975. She is Miss Sue Diamond of St. Catherines, Ontario. Time of sighting approximately 1.00 p.m. Place, just before an Hotel about three miles from Inverness, at a pullover elevated from the surface, (This would be the Clansman, which is ten miles from Inverness: the lay-by being about three miles before the hotel). Weather was calm, with slight mist hanging on hills opposite. No boats were seen. The object was about half way across the loch, and it appeared to blend with the water, but was long and moving in a northerly direction. It was seen for about one minute, then disappeared leaving an S-shaped pattern on the surface. The two girls were interviewed in Fort Augustus by Alex Campbell who said he knew of no boats on the loch up to that time that day. An extract from Sues' diary for the day says "We decided to hitch down Loch Ness and see the scenery while of course we'd check for Nessie. We had a jolly Scotsman in a nice truck give us a ride. Suddenly Irma saw something and the driver pulled over. The long snake-like object had gone into an s-shape before disappearing."

My thanks to George for time and trouble taken in gathering this extra information, but I must say that even though the lack of boats has been stressed the general pattern of this sighting is that of a boat wake, so perhaps a question mark should remain over it?

I have also the full account from Alan Wilkins of the happenings on July 18th 1975, which I hope to include with this Nessletter on separate sheets.

More Cousins

This month I had news from two of our American members concerning lake monsters in the States. First John Pisano Jr. sent a cutting from the National Enquirer of the 5th of February 1971 it is about Lake Champlain. Starting with the French explorer Samuel de Champlain who discovered the lake in 1609, and who wrote that he had seen a serpent-like creature 20 ft long, as thick as a keg, and with a head like a horse's. Next, Walter Hard, who moved into a cottage in Burlington in 1960. He saw something about 100 yards offshore just after a thunder-storm. Not having heard of monsters he at first thought it was a swimmer. Then he saw that the globular, dirty-white head was too big, and that below surface there was a body some 20 ft long, and reddish in colour. He and his wife watched as it swam off across the lake not submerging. There have been many similar sightings reported and they do seem to go in cycles. Also the article states that at one time Lake Champlain was an arm of the Atlantic Ocean, which is very much the style of Loch Ness. This is an old cutting but it is interesting.

John also sent a cutting from the National Star of November 4th 1975 concerning the 'Rines Photographs'. Dr Zug, Zoologist in Reptiles and Amphibians at the Smithsonian Institute, told the paper he had seen them and in his opinion there was definitely something there, the people who took the photographs were beyond reproach and there was no evidence of fakery. He also said the beast had a reptilian appearance, somewhat like a Plesiosaurus, with two giraffe-like horns on its head.

Tim Church of Missoula, Montana also sent a well produced report on 'The Flathead Lake Monster'; starting with Indian legends up to 1885 and then on to 1974, Flathead Lake lies Northwestern Montana, being the largest lake in the Western United States some 27 miles long by 15 miles at its widest. Covering an area of 188 sq. miles, it has a maximum depth of 350 feet and the temperature remains steady at 37 degrees in the deep areas. I am grateful to Tim for this report which I hope to include in full with a later Nessletter.

T.V. and Radio

In October the BBC's Radio 4 programme 'The Living World' had an item by Dr. Maurice Burton. In it he explained that although he had not examined any of the evidence collected since 1961, fourteen years ago, he was certain that the creatures did not exist. He said that no similar sized animal is known in the temperate latitudes and went on to give examples of people in various parts of the world being deceived into thinking they had seen monsters, by family of otters. He concluded that the Loch Ness Monster does not exist and anyone seeing one was in fact seeing a family of otters;

Early November saw Nick Witchell on ITV's Magpie programme, looking at and discussing Tim Dinsdale's film and Bob Rines' 1972 pictures. It was presented for children but in an open minded way.

Odds and Ends

Looking through the book 'The Charm of Scotland' by John Herries McCulloch, chapter two starts with 'The Loch Hourn Monster'; I followed the author down the very difficult road to Kinloch Hourn, and along with him I discovered that the Loch Hourn monster was not at all like Nessie! Legend suggests it was twenty times the size of a golden eagle; a huge bat like creature, with a very strong noxious smell which spread everywhere as it flew low through the night. A sort of Highland Pterodactyl no doubt.

In the same book the 'Loch na Beiste' (Loch of the Beast) is mentioned of Rudha Mor, on the West Coast of Scotland. It is one of several such lochs in the Highlands, but it is unique because at one time an effort was actually made to drain it. When this proved impossible barrels of lime were brought from the Isle of Skye and dumped into the deepest part of the loch, but even this failed to stir the Beast.

Finally, I have a short account from NIS member Philip Marlow, of his holiday at Loch Ness with his brother and a friend, from 15th to 21st of August. Two days were spent cycling round the loch on hired bicycles, "a great experience" he says, but one to be considered before being attempted. They (like so many of us) did not see anything.

Well, that winds up another Nessletter, "thanks" to all who have written; and please remember N.I.S. needs comments and news. My address is still:-
R.R.Hepple, Huntshildford Cottage, St.Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham
DL13 1RQ. Please note that due to rising costs subs have increased slightly to
£1.25 p.a. U.K. and \$7.00 USA and Canada. Sorry, but we do the best we can.

Rip.