

Ness Information Service  
Nessletter No. 19  
December 1976

Academy of Applied Science

Bob Rines had hoped to return to Loch Ness in November, along with more members of his team, to be on the spot for the late salmon run. Unfortunately he was not able to manage it, and the season was wound up by Charlie Wyckoff. I understand he was at the loch for a few days in November preparing the equipment for the winter. The results for this year were disappointing but once more not without interest. Sonar proved to be the productive equipment again this year. Picking up large moving objects on a few occasions, but they did not oblige by coming within camera range. Sonar was also used to examine the loch floor in a number of areas. Finding in a fairly shallow place between Dores and Loch End a number of stone rings from 15 to 100 feet in diameter; they also located several wrecked ships in various places. But Martin Klein (who is the sonar expert in the team) is most interested in one or two large objects on the bottom, which he thinks have a chance of being carcasses owing to their size and shape. Next season it is hoped to have specialised equipment to investigate these objects more closely. A full report of the seasons results is to be published in the December MIT 'Technology Review.'

Wave Power

While not being concerned with monster research, there is an interesting experiment starting on Loch Ness in April.

It is to test equipment for extracting energy from wave power. The first British sea going prototype wave power machine will be put into the Loch off Dores. It will be a six month programme to test hardware developed from the 'nodding duck' devised by Stephen Salter of Edinburgh University. It is a series of duck body shaped vanes connected by a central spine which remains rigid while the 'ducks' are free to nod up and down; this motion is used to generate electricity. The rig is being assembled by the hydraulics department at Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry, in cooperation with Sea Energy Associates, a company formed by Ready Mixed Concrete and Insituform, a firm specialising in the development of advanced engineering. A prototype of the 1m diameter, 2m wide duck has been built for Lanchester. The project is for 25 of these, each made by a commercial company, making a string of 50 metres. It is hoped that if earlier tests with models prove correct 50 percent of the wave energy can be utilised.

I will be interesting to see how they go about anchoring this rig in the Loch, and how it stands up to the water conditions. It will be useful to have technical people from other branches of science around close to the water; who knows Nessie may give them something else to think about.

Dores Inn

The 18th century Dores Inn is to have a new landlord and a facelift. Mr Lawrence MacGill took over in November, he was chosen from a list of 420 applicants by the agents of the owner, Colonel Cameron of Aldourie, when the lease went on the market recently. Mr MacGill says that the inn

is situated in a beautiful setting but has been operating at a fraction of its potential. He is planning a restaurant and lounge bar with garden seating for patrons. He intends to keep the present single bar which has great character and atmosphere. With the growing tourist traffic in the area these improvements will be a very welcome asset.

#### More Books

George Hamilton, U.S.A., very kindly sent me a list of books available in the States. Loch Ness Monster Watchers, by V.Perera, published by Capra Press, 631 State St, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101. The Loch Ness Monster, 2nd by T.Dinsdale, published by Routledge & Kegan Ltd., 9 Park St, Boston, MA 02108. The Loch Ness Monster, by R.T.Gould, published by Universe Books, 381 Park Ave, S., New York, N.Y. 10016. The Loch Ness Monster, by Elwood D.Baumann, published by Franklin Watts. Inc., 845 3rd Ave, New York, N.Y. 10022. The Loch Ness Story, by Nicholas Witchell, Penguin Books Inc., 7110 Ambassador Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. In Search of Lake Monsters, by Peter Costello, published by Berkley Medallion Books, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. The Mysterious Monsters, published by Sun Classic Pictures Inc., 11071 Massachusetts Ave, Los Angeles, Ca 90025. Strange Secrets of the Loch Ness Monster, by Warren Smith, published by Zebra Books, 380 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Monsters Among Us, by John Lee & Barara Moore, published by Pyramid Books, 9 Garden St., Moonachie, N.J. 07074. The Monsters of Loch Ness, by Roy P. Mackal, published by Swallow Press Inc., 811 West Junior Terrace, Chicago, 111. 60613.

#### And a Record

I received a copy of a new record from Kangaroo Records of San Gabriel, California. It is Country and Western style music, catchy tunes to both sides of the record. One side is Big Foot and the other is Nessie (The Loch Ness Monster), the performer is Johnny Blankenship. It is a much better effort than the last Nessie record I heard back in 1974.

#### Alaska

From the newsletter 'Shadows' edited by Tim Chirch, comes a report of a lake monster in Alaska. Lake Iliamna is in the South-West of Alaska and is 90 miles long and 25 miles wide, with average depth of 600 feet, making it the 7th largest freshwater lake in the world. The Eskimos have legends of a water creature, but it was not until World War II that US Navy airmen flying over the lake reported seeing high shadows underwater. There have been a few reports through the years, including in 1960 one by American astronauts as they flew over on vacation. This is another for the ever growing list of water creatures that deserve further investigation.

Well once more that is all and may I wish all a Happy New Year, and say thank you for being members, and remind you that news and views are always welcomed. The address is still:- Huntshieldsford Cottage, St.Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham, DL13 1RQ.

Tim Dinsdale to monsterhunters and Interested Parties - circulated (as usual) through the good offices of N.I.S. and its editor Rip Hepple.

'Symposia '75' .....There is no need to write in detail of these exciting events, which are now a part of Monster history. It is sufficient to say that after the collapse of the Edinburgh Symposium, the House of Commons meeting arranged by David James in the Grand Committee Room proved a most dramatic event - at which the facts were aired, opinions expressed, and the gleaming shafts of expertise and super-technology hurled from one side to the other. In short a splendid time was had by all, and a hugely important contribution made to the ever expanding flood-tide of facts, as represented by the Scott/Rines article in Nature (Vol 258 Dec 11th 1975), my own piece in the Photographic Journal of the Royal Photographic Society (January - February 1976), "MIT's" Technology Review (March/April 1976) article by Rines, Edgerton, Wychoff & Klein, and the March Wildlife articles by the Editor-Publisher Nigel Sitwell and Sir Peter Scott, 'Britains best known naturalist'. These publications put out a broadside of accurate counter-fire to the barrage of unwanted publicity and nonsense-press which preceded these events.

Prospects for '76.....look extremely encouraging, in terms of the up-and-coming fieldwork and the continuing dissemination of information, which is true and accurate.

Adrian Shine, leader of the 1976 Loch Morar Expedition has put out a comprehensive prospectus which shows that much sophisticated underwater video and camera gear will be deployed. His show will run for about 12 weeks starting in early June, and volunteers are welcomed, and should get in touch via 'Tweenhills' Hurst Lane, Egham, Surrey. Having visited the Shine expedition of '76, and watched the submersible 'Machan' and the bottom-viewing craft 'Pequod' in action, and becoming friends with its leader, I promise a first rate performance in '76, but should point out to volunteers that Morar can be tough, and that they need to be prepared both for weather, and some fairly clear instructions on what is expected of them. However, all expeditions benefit from a proper degree of control, and as we remember from Loch Morar Survey expedition days, Morar must surely be one of the world's most beautiful places - where rain, mist, wind and sunshine all produce entrancing effects.

\*Bob Rines and his Academy team, both American and British will again be fielding high-technology equipment underwater in Loch Ness, during the summer, in an effort to clinch the 1975 series of photos, with more definitive frames. Due to the peat-stain photography is immensely difficult, however with the sort of expertise and equipment now available, and with the support of scientists from some of the world's leading establishments, success must be within the scope of R.H.R and his band of inimitable specialists.

\*My own long-drift surface-photography watch will continue throughout the season, while assisting these various operations, using 'Water Horse', 'Hunter' which now belongs to Bob Rines as the Academy exploration-workboat - 'Malaran' the 12 ton diesel vessel owned by Jim Buchanan's 'Undersea Vision (Scotland) Ltd' - Jim being the intrepid Scots scientist -diver, without whose help we would not make much progress underwater in Loch Ness.

BBC/TV Documentary....to go out in early June in the BBC's 'Tuesday Documentary' slot will be the first serious, 50 minute British-national TV documentary of its kind on this subject. I spent a week in March filming with Hugh Burnett the Producer at Loch Ness, with an expert camera crew - and was able to arrange interviews with a number of recent local witnesses, with experience of fishing and the surface water environment. Viewing the 5 hours of colour film shot at the Natural History Unit at Bristol - and meeting the men who will whittle the footage down has convinced me that this film will do much to alert the people of this country to the facts of the case, as perhaps no other film has done.....but we must await the final result.

Loch Ness Association of Explorers.....is the letterhead under which future 'operation newsletters' will go out, this being a small private, and uncomplicated association I hope to build up the object of which is to maintain a good humoured working relationship and contact between the key figures in the Ness and Morar search and research projects - and other fields of exploration, such as the Big Foot, UFO's, and Paranormal Phenomena each of which deserve a focus of attention.

From time to time it will issue a 'commentary', and where possible build up records, documents, letters, films and photographs for future reference - and initiate practical fieldwork activities in terms of exploration.

It will not be a 'membership' association, in the accepted sense, there will be no dues or fixed commitments and no one will be invited to join. However, the LNAE intends to pay a small compliment to those whose real objectives, and very hard work behind the scenes (which so often goes unnoticed) deserve to be complimented - and in this regard it is a matter of particular pleasure to invite the Editor of N.I.S., Rip Hepple to accept such a compliment, and become a 'Companion' of the Loch Ness Association of Explorers.

T.D.

Post Script.....one of the most encouraging signs which signals the onset of 'respectability' is the willingness of publishers to accept the work of the Monsterhunters, and Bigfooters - and in this we are fortunate in having the support of such men as Al Hackle of Acropolis Books, Washington D.C. who published my own Monster Hunt, and now Peter Byrne's definitive and enthralling The Search for Big Foot - Andrew Hall of Futura Publications, who is doing an up-dated edition of The Leviathans, out in paperback in July, and Roy Mackal's tome The Monsters of Loch Ness. Norman Franklin of Routledge & Kegan Paul whose company has remained unflinchingly in support through all the years of the hunt with Loch Ness Monster, coming out as a third edition, and Project Water Horse. Other books are on the way, and I know of at least three hopeful authors who have not published before. It may be that in the summer of 1976 our giant aquatic quarry in Ness and Morar will surface obligingly, or swim past underwater twiddling its thumbs or making flipper signs which have no need of interpretation. We live in hope.