

Ness Information Service
Nessletter No.26
February 1978.

Editors Note

As Ness Information Service enters its fourth year I would like once more to thank you all for being members, and special thanks to those who have sent me information, articles, ideas, news and views.

The Chinese New Year started a few weeks ago and this is a year of the horse. Let us hope that it is also the year of the 'Water Horse'.

Which brings me nicely to my next item, which is about our youngest, Heather, and her water horse. On our holidays at Loch Ness I like to do some canoeing. As I have written in a previous Nessletter the most wonderful experience is a flat calm morning with the sun coming up over the mountains. I have a look out around sunrise if the water is right, I get ready and go out. On the morning in question, in 1976 when Heather was two, there were two to three foot waves so it was back to bed. At about eight o'clock my wife, Doris, and I were still in bed drinking tea and talking about a reported 'hearing' by campers on the shore in Urquhart Bay. I was saying that the closest animals were the horses and cattle in the fields some hundreds of yards away. Heather in her cot on the side of the caravan, was sitting up looking out of the window. Suddenly she said "there's a horsey on the water". Seconds passed as what she had said registered, then further seconds as we scrambled up. As we did she said "Oh-gone". We, by this time, were looking out of the window and all there was were the three foot waves, little white caps, all dotted about. We tried to get her to tell us what she had seen, without leading her, but she would not say it again until much later. That is all there was to it, but it is now a family joke that after all the years I've been watching I've seen nothing but our Heather has. But what she saw if anything will never be known. It could be that our talking about cows and horses caused her to say something, just to join our conversation; who knows?

Lake Champlain

Joe Zarzynski, who has done much work on the Champlain mystery, sent me a copy of the November 1977 issue of the 'Yankee' magazine, which has an article about it. It is a good balanced presentation of the situation bringing things up to date.

He also told me he hopes to be at Loch Ness for a week during the latter part of April.

Another item of interest is the fact that he will be teaching a night course to adults in Saratoga Springs, NY on the subject of "Loch Ness Monster & other Lake Monsters". The course runs a total of ten hours and is part of a Continuing Education Programme for adults in the Saratoga Springs Public School System. So far there has been a good response to the course. It will run two hours a week for 5 weeks, but Joe gives no dates. His address is:- PO Box 34, Wilton, NY 12866, USA., it may be worth while for anyone interested to contact him.

Lake Okanagan

Cam Brown, 975 Crosscreek Road, West Vancouver, B.C., Canada, sent me some information about 'Ogopogo', as the Lake Okanagan creature is termed. First there was a booklet called 'I Saw Ogopogo', it is small, the printing is not very good, it contains some poor drawings but it does present a fair amount of information on the subject.

He also gave details of another book on the subject, just titled 'Ogopogo' it is by Mary Moon. This is a soft cover book of 196 pages, it has photographs of the areas where creatures have been reportedly sighted. It also includes two pictures of the creature itself (Cam says neither of these has serious strength), along with some drawings concerning sightings. It is a full history of the Ogopogo looking at reports and legends from the indians to the early white settlers and through to recent reports. There are sections on hunting the creature, explanations of what Ogopogo might be and also other lake monsters and sea serpents in British Columbia. Cam has access to a limited number of these books, the cost is \$4.95 plus \$1.00 postage, (about £2.80) from the above address.

Cam also gives the same address for "World Phenomena Information and Research Center". The WPIRC is a non-profit organization set up to study all unknown phenomena. Through lack of funds it does not put out bulletins or have open membership, it is hoped in the near future both will be possible.

Expedition

I have word from Alan McClymont of a small expedition to be mounted during the period 16/7/78 to 12/8/78. There are four of them at the moment, going up to Loch Ness from the Cheltenham area. Alan and a friend have been doing this for a year or two terming themselves as the Loch Ness Monster Investigation. This year as well as an increase in personnel they are taking to the water. They will have a 16 foot cruiser fitted with depth sounder and hydrophone equipment, as well as photographic equipment which includes cine and 35mm cameras fitted with telephoto lenses up to 1000 mm capacity.

They will be based around the Rubha Ban area, Alan's partner Peter Townrow probably camping in the Loch Ness Camping Site. Anyone else who may be interested in joining them as a self-sufficient party, during part of or all of the period please contact L.N.M.I. at 28 Cumberland Crescent, Rowanfield, Cheltenham. Glos.

The Rubha Ban area is down around the south-west shore just out of Invermoriston Bay.

Sighting? 1974

Philip Marlow, of Southport, who attends a day release course at college sent me the following report. He is writing an extended essay on a subject of his own choice is, (surprise), 'Nessie'. His economics' tutor was very interested as she said her father had an experience while holidaying and visiting Loch Ness. Through her, Phil had her father fill in a sighting report.

Name; Leo Joseph Prince, (age 69) also his wife. Occupation; Retired Iron Moulder. Date of sighting; July 1974. Time; early evening (approx 6 p.m.) Distance of object from observer; 100-120 yards (approx). Conditions; light, very good, wind, none, water surface, calm. Appearance of object disturbance; wake on water but no boat visible anywhere. Duration of sighting; 20 minutes. Location of sighting; North shore, A82 before Castle on road from Inverness.

There was a photograph taken, Philip has seen a print and enclosed a sketch in his letter. He described the wake as not very strong with gaps in its length. He also included a note further the observers position, which was one of the high lay-bys before the A82 turns into Urquhart Bay. Looking at the sketch and taking into account the position of the camera I would estimate distance from observer nearer a quarter of a mile than 100 yards. Philip also points out that the 20 minutes sighting duration was the total time spent at the lay-by, the disturbance was watched for about $\frac{3}{4}$ minute. Mr.Prince states that he had the impression the wake was being caused by something just under the surface.

This type of experience is of no great value to the scientists, but is very exciting to the people concerned. I know something similar occurs many times during the season. It was one of the functions of the Loch Ness Investigation to be a focal point at which reports like this could be gathered, and many of them explained by ordinary things.

Philip asks if anyone has any unwanted pictures or cuttings he could have to include in his essay, address is 14 Argameols Close, Southport, Merseyside.

N.I.S. Members.

Among the N.I.S. members who visited the loch last year were Peter and Pauline Hodge. They sent me a short note about it, they like the others did not connect with Nessie. They were up for two weeks in September, the weather was bright and dry, although frosty at night. There was still considerable traffic on both the road and the loch itself, and the airforce was doing its low flying practise through the Great Glen making a deafening noise.

The early mornings were flat calm, ideal for watching but as the day wore on the conditions deteriorated. They said it was good to be back by the loch the old magic still being there, and they can go back long before L.N.I. headquarters at Achnahannet.

The weather worsened at Loch Ness so they moved on to the West Coast for a few days, and then on to the Isle of Mull which they say is beautiful and not over commercialised. All in all a very nice holiday despite not catching a glimpse of the 'Beastie'.

Books and Irish Lakes

From Grasspoint on the Isle of Mull, Lionel Leslie sent me a letter with reference to the Irish lakes. Lionel is one of the very early Loch Ness Investigators and a tremendous character, still going strong at a fair old age.

About ten years ago there was an investigation into the Irish lakes and the reports of Nessie type creatures in some of them. Lionel was very involved in this work and wrote to tell me that the results obtained have now been entered up as World Mysteries; in company with such others as the 'Marie Celeste' and the disappearance of the lighthouse keepers on Flannan Isles.

There are two books mentioned, first 'Enigmas and Mysteries' by Colin Wilson (Aldus Books). Secondly 'In Search of Monsters' by Alan Lansbury (Corgi). Also remember that Ted Holiday covers this work in 'The Dragon and the Disc', and Tim Dinsdale has it in 'Project Water Horse'.

Odds and Ends

***** Fishing, the cold rough weather in January and early February affected catches early in the season. The water in some of the rivers and in parts of the Caledonian Canal froze over. Loch Ness remained at its normal temperature of 40/42 degrees and ice free. And the anglers who braved the cold on the loch had better results. Among the salmon caught was one of 32lb, it was taken on Saturday 11th Feb off the mouth of the River Moriston. The following Saturday saw 'Torry' MacKenzie, of Fort August, take a huge 38lb fish off the Oich estuary. This cock fish was 44 inches long with a girth of 25 inches.

***** Members, I have been asked how many members N.I.S. has. The count at this time is 178, but this fluctuates almost from day to day, with members subscriptions being due and enquiries about membership coming in. The breakdown of nationalities is:- 2 Australian, 1 Belgian, 4 Canadian, 72 English, 2 French, 2 German, 1 Gautemalan, 2 Italian, 1 Norwegian, 12 Scottish 74 Americans, 4 Welsh 1 Irish.

*****New Scientist, Mr Hawkins sent me an article from this magazine, by Jim Hone, New South Wales Department of Agriculture. Who using algebra and physics proves that the creatures in Loch Ness have an oscillating population which at times does not exist!! It seems to be a tongue in cheek piece, which as you read through it, is very scientific, then leads you on to realize Mr Hone may not be as serious as he seems to be at first.

*****N.I.S. at the lochside, I hope to be up at Loch Ness from July 24th to August 4th, with the family. We will be based in the Abriachan area, with a change of vehicle, a white Bedford Dormobile, registration number CXG 583K. Any other members going up who would like their presence publicised please let me have the details as soon as possible.

*****Subscriptions, costs have risen this year but not as much as previous years. Never the less I am sorry to have to ask for £1.75 from U.K. members, the \$7.00 from North American members has proved adequate, and remains the same.

Thats all I have for now, as the Nessletters enter their fourth year. Please remember that news and views are always needed and that you are the N.I.S., it is for and about you. My address is still:- Huntshieldsford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham.

Rip.