

SEMINAR

Since the early days of Ness Information Service, I have often thought that some form of meeting could be worthwhile, be it an occasional one off or an annual event. I have not tried to arrange one up to now, because of the time required to organise it, the bulk of my spare time being taken up just producing the Nessletters. I have received a letter from James Baldwin setting out some thoughts on the subject. James feels that there is a lack of communication and liason, and apart from the work done by the Loch Ness Project expeditions are small and generally doomed to failure. Being, with one or two exceptions, basically monster hunting holidays, that applies to him as much as anyone else. As members may recall I always refer to my own trips to the loch as holidays, which they are. James' idea is to try to introduce some personal contact, and make use of such expertise and enthusiasm as NIS has amongst its members. James is prepared to try and organize such a meeting subject to sufficient response. He used the term 'seminar' after some thought. He had at first thought that an informal evening gathering, with some speakers, would be the answer. An evening, however, is clearly not long enough, and he summarised his thoughts thus. Venue: NIS is widespread, so an area is needed that is not going to cost too much to get to. The majority of interested members being able to get there and back in one day and so avoid an overnight stay. Cost: one way to try to keep costs to a minimum per member, is for members to arrange their own refreshment but there should be an informal social gathering during the meeting. Possibly over coffee and sandwiches, to promote a friendly atmosphere. Time: it would be desirable to have the meeting at a time of year when members are most easily and readily available. Early spring or perhaps late autumn, holidays and exams are generally out of the way then. Nature & Content: as yet no approach has been made to anyone, but it is hoped that one or more of the better known people in the monster hunting circle would be able to attend. It would also provide some inspiration to us all to hear firsthand from anyone who has had a clear, unambiguous sighting. The above points are James' basic ideas, the object is to try and get a little inspiration and impetus into the movement. Please fill in the attached questionnaire and send it to James, even if you cannot, or would not like to, attend such a meeting. Please let us have your thoughts and ideas.

BOOKS

"Twilight of the Gods" is Michael Baran's third book, his first two being mentioned in previous Nessletters. While not a 'monster' book as such, this one continues to put forward the subterranean-saurian theory. This is supported by citations of Plato, Cayce, Indian legends, and so on. The book explores the evidence that a world-shaking catastrophe occurred about 11,000BC, presenting Baran's intriguingly documented model of a fiery, worldwide cataclysm that submerged the Pacific island-continent of Lemuria and devastated Atlantis, in the Atlantic. It also offers persuasive substantiation for the theory that long forgotten superpower civilizations once existed. Their leaders brought terrible destruction with the secret power at their command, this eventually led to their own demise. The book is published by Exposition Press, Smithtown, NY, USA 11787-2120. It has to be ordered by mail, and remittance should be in US currency \$10.50ppd.

'Champ - Beyond the Legend' by Joe Zarzynski, was published in July 1984, this is the first non-fiction book on the Lake Champlain phenomenon. Members will recognise Joe's name, it crops up in the Nessletters from time to time, as he keeps us up to date with his work at Lake Champlain. For ten years he has been conducting field work at the lake, and researching into historical sightings. Not only is he accepted by many as the leading authority on Lake Champlain, he has also been to Loch Ness on a number of occasions doing research. In his book he has accounts of sighting going back over 370 years, and includes descriptions and sketches from many of the people involved in past and present sightings, in all there are over 70 illustrations, maps, and photographs; including the Mansi photograph. There are also statements from scientists of many universities, among them, Chicago and Arizona, along with The Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and others. This fully indexed book is distributed by M-Z Information, PO Box 2129, Wilton, New York 12866, USA in soft-cover \$8.95, hard-cover \$16.95, postage and handling \$1.25, overseas \$2.75, NYS residents please add 7% sales tax.

I have word from Tim Dinsdale that his 'Project Waterhorse' will soon be out of print. However he has a small reserve of copies which are available to members by post, the cost will be £5.00. Anyone interested please let me have your request and cheque, and in due course you will receive your copy, autographed by Tim if so wished.

VLADIVAR TRAP & OTHERS

The expedition, sponsored by the Vladivar Vodka company, came to an unsuccessful end early in October. According to one newspaper report, Steven Whittle, the trap had been his idea, was sitting on the shores of the loch bemoaning the fact that the vodka people had pulled out. I think that is being unfair either to Mr Whittle or to Vladivar, or both. In earlier announcements it was stated that the expedition would last six weeks, and £20,000 had been earmarked for it's use. The expedition lasted six weeks and £7,000 were spent, not the full amount set aside but still a substantial sum. When I telephone Guy Ainsworth of the Vladivar company, asking for an up-date and any other information of the expedition, I was told "we have no further interest". Somewhat terse but I feel they had kept their end of the bargain. It was disappointing that they were unsuccessful, but not really surprising. They were attempting to catch an animal about which very little is known. The trap used was a passive type, not a net or trawl, but one into which the intended target has to be lured. What do you use as the attraction? Food would seem to be the sensible choice. This raises a problem, it is not know for certain what the animals eat, most of the researchers suggest that fish of some sort form the diet of the creatures. The loch abounds with salmon, trout, and other fish. Therefore, you place a number of salmon and trout into a small container, this is then put into the large trap. One of the animals is then supposed to come along, show interest in a meal and swim into your trap. As this did not happen, does it prove that there are no large animals in the loch? I do not think so, there are too many unknowns. Were the fish presented in the correct manner, were they the right type of fish, do the animals feed in the chosen area, do they feed on fish anyway, were they frightened off the the structure of the trap? The list can go on. I do not feel that one six week long exercise can hope to provide many of the answers. It could have been hoped that they would be fortunate first time round, because it looks as if there will not be a second try. Some while ago I received another letter from Dick Raynor, one of the items he mentioned in it was netting. Dick was a member of the Loch Ness Investigation for may years, being on the resident staff at Achnahannet in the early 1970's, he also filmed a wake and back in June 1967. The system put forward by Dick is that of sub-dividing sections. One of the best areas to put this type of experiment into practice would be Urquhart Bay. A large part of the bay would be netted off, possibly right across from Goat Rock on the southern point, to Tychat on the northern shore. Entrances would be left through the initial netted area into the main loch, these 'gates' would be monitored by sonar. After a large target was detected going into the area these 'gates' would be shut off, then the area would be divided in half. This division would again have a 'gate' or 'gates' monitored by sonar, when the target was detected moving into the required half, these would be closed off. This procedure would continue until you had an area of shallowish water about the size of a tennis court. Dick then goes on. If it is not churning around, and your little sonar says there is nothing there, then dear old Ted was right. (Ted; the late F W Holiday, a mutual friend and sadly missed by all the monster fraternity, whose theories on the creatures being , worms, paranormal, and connected to flying saucers, were published in his books The Great Orm, and The Dragon and the Disc.) If it is not churning around, but a cloud of UFO's descends upon you, he was still right. If a 50 foot Plesiosaur climbs up the beach ... Then Dick is sure Ted would have been very much relieved.

Such an ambitious project would be very costly. There also would be many problems to be solved, the deep water of the bay with an irregular bottom, and the boat traffic around the bay, are only two. In the late 1960's I had an idea for putting a net across Urquhart Bay. Not in an attempt to catch anything, but to try to provide evidence of something large in the loch. I thought that if old fishing nets, or some similar, not too strong and with large mesh, were strung across the mouth of the bay, it could prove useful. I visualized the string of buoys across the bay being watched and when they were seen to be disturbed, that portion of the net would be retrieved. The large hole left by the passage of a Nessie should have been enough to raise eyebrows, and hopefully the interest of influential scientific people. A possible modifiation would have been small hooks fixed to the net, in the hope of getting a piece of skin. These last two ideas have not been tried, therefore we cannot know what the outcome would be. At least Steven Whittle's idea has been tried, even though it was not first time lucky.

IRISH RESEARCH

Nessletter 63 and the piece about Lionel Leslie brought a response from Eddie Ruttledge, of County Dublin, Ireland. I have mentioned both these in previous Nessletters in connection with Irish research. Eddie said he has been corresponding with Lionel for some years, especially about Lough Derg. In 1981 he saw a report, of a monster spending some time that summer talking to locals, many of whom had seen something unusual at different times over the years. Eddie sent these very interesting reports to Lionel, asking him if there was anyone he knew connected with the Loch Ness investigation who would be willing to take the research further. It was through this move by Eddie that Bob Rines, from the Academy of Applied Sciences, took some of his equipment to Lough Derg in October 1982. Eddie was concerned that it was his initial work that had brought people from various parts of the world to the lough, therefore he was delighted when the sonar registered a good number of large blips. One of these was 5 feet in thickness, there were also six large blips in lower mid-water in a trough, I carried reports of this work in Nessletters at the time. Bob has not been able to fit in further trips to Ireland in the seasons since, unfortunately. Eddie has been trying to find out what the large blips were. One Irish expert thinks that they could be a shoal of bream which pack very close indeed. Eddie says that does not explain the six that showed on the chart in 35 feet of water in a trough. When this explanation was put to Bob Rines his reply was "the charts had been carefully examined, there were no signs of any or even one fish apart from the object or near to it, and that the object was very compact indeed." Eddie had been trying to get another fish and sonar expert to take his Lawrance sonar to Lough Derg, at the end of September. As he had too many business commitments he could not get there, which was a shame, as he is probably the most experienced man in this area in Ireland. His equipment can tell a single fish at the edge of a blip, if it is a shoal. He also puts down bait containers and watches the blip break up and rejoin. Work with this sonar may be done next Spring/Summer. Eddie has gone on collecting reports from the locals since 1981, he does not know if they are connected to the large blips. They could only be if it is proved that these blips are not shoals of fish. Eddie feels it is very important to find out for certain if Bob Rines recorded shoals of fish or something else. If they turned out not to be a shoal of fish, a proper investigation needs to be done by people who have experience in collecting reports, and investigation. The reason Eddie wrote giving us this background information, is that he would like to get in touch with anyone interested in getting to the bottom of the mystery. Either people who could do a proper collection and examination of all reports of sightings and see if there are many more than he has collected, or anyone who would be interested in doing sonar work, or underwater photography, there next season. If any members would like to contact Eddie about this, please write to me I will forward letters. As it happens I have just received a letter from Lionel. At the age of 84 he is one of the grand old men of the 'monster' investigation, he is keeping fairly fit although his eye-sight is failing. He is intrigued by the fact that Adrian Shine still remains unsure in spite of the sonar results. Lionel believes there is just something about the creatures which puts them in a genus of their own, as different from other creatures as the lung-fish is from other fish - one that can exist without water. How else can it be explained, not by zoology as at present known? His book is now interesting another publisher. Let us hope that it appears in print soon.

ROLAND WATSON

Has dropped me a note about his latest expedition/holiday up north. He first had a watch at Loch Oich, unfortunately the southern end was a hive of activity; speed boats, water skiers and cruisers. Next he moved onto Loch Oich, which is windswept and lonely, it is also devoid of trees which offers an unrestricted view of the loch. No creatures seen, though on the bare soil beds by the beach he saw a sheep track and further up the hill were the scattered bones of a sheep. Nearby was an indentation that Roland thought looked a little like the track of a large cat. He says it could have been caused by a rock, although there was not rock around to fit the mark but also there were no signs of anyone moving or throwing one away. Roland took a photograph of the 'print'. Perhaps another puma in the area. Loch Arkaig was the next stop, it was more picturesque with more trees, he pitched near the islet at the eastern end and dropped his camera on the shingle. No damage, but shutter release and exposure unit occasionally refused to work. After another short visit to Loch Oich, Roland was off to Loch Ness.

He conducted watches at the old pier at Invermoriston, the Abbey pier, the mouth of the Coiltie and Enrick, took a row across Urquhart Bay, plus the usual short watches when travelling. He had no luck with the monster, he did not even spot a monster hunter. He says he will have to have NIS stickers on his baggage next year, when he hopes to take all his 14 days at Loch Ness. He goes on to make a few comments. In NIS 64 Ulrich Magin asked about glowing Nessies. Roland's Tulpa theory predicts a glowing Nessie, in NIS55 which expounds the theory he said that one orthoturn away the Tulpa assumes a visible 2-dimensional image composed wholly of electromagnetic energy. To an observer, Nessie/Tulpa would appear out of nowhere 'glowing', this is because it is composed of visible electromagnetic energy, light, although only in 2-dimensions. One more orthoturn and the Tulpa becomes solid and stops glowing. As no 'glowing Nessies' have been reported Roland suggests that the creature materialises deep underwater. What happens to the water originally occupying the Tulpa's volume? It is violently displaced in all directions from the Tulpa, and could be the experience of Jean Berton described in NIS9 (June 75). (While watching Urquhart Bay from Strone Point he saw a large commotion in the water about 200 yards away, it seemed to be pushed up in a ring some 5/8 yards in diameter, there was a much smaller disturbance close by, it lasted 5 to 10 seconds. Nothing came to the surface and he looked for birds or anything else that may have caused the disturbance, he was sure it was not a salmon.) Roland says he does not claim all disturbances are materialisations. He also asks, "by what contortions could Nessie Achieve a ringed Disturbance"? One final comment concerns the ESP abilities of the witnesses. The Tulpa theory allows for the possibility that witnesses of the creatures may have higher ESP abilities than those who do not see it. So Roland says that he may therefore surmise that the late Alex Campbell who saw Nessie many times or, in fact, a person who sees Nessie on his first visit to the loch may have higher than normal ESP faculties. This would require ESP testing, which at its most mundane is Zener card testing. Perhaps that is one for the future.

SIGHTING

Jake Williams a member who lives in Aberdeenshire, sent me a sighting report form that had been filled in by his father, Jimmie. Sometime in June 1936 or 37, he was in his early twenties, he was camping at Foyers with a group of Scoutmasters from Inverness. At 9am on the day in question he was between the Foyers Hotel and the Aluminium works about 50 feet up the bank, when he saw on the surface a dark shape, it was similar in shape to a swans head and neck but bigger, it was moving faster than a swimming bird in a north easterly direction. It was well out in the loch outside Foyers Bay, about half a mile, as far as he can recall it was in sight 3 or 4 minutes before it submerged, sinking suddenly. The weather was good and the loch surface fairly calm.

That brings another Nessletter to a close, please remember your news and views are always welcome and necessary. My address is: R R HEPPLÉ, HUNTSHIELDFORD, ST JOHN'S CHAPEL, BISHOP AUCKLAND, CO DURHAM, DL13 1RQ. Telephone WEARDALE 537359. SUBS UK £2.00 CANADA, USA \$9.00

Rip.

Ness Information Service
Proposed Seminar.

1. Would you be prepared to attend a meeting/seminar as mentioned in Nessletter 66. Yes. No.
If no, can you state reason ?

2. Where would you prefer such a meeting to be held?
 - a. London.
 - b. Oxford.
 - c. Nottingham.
 - d. York.
 - e. Chester.
 - f. Durham.
 - g. Tyne & Wear.
 - h. Edinburgh.
 - i. Other. (please specify county or district).

3. At what time of year, please state month, would you prefer such a meeting to take place ?

4. If a time or venue not of your choice was arranged, and an overnight stay became necessary would your answer to 1. above be affected ?
If yes, please state to what extent.

Please complete this form and return to :-

J.P. Baldwin,
63 Montague Road,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex.

If you have any observations to make on the content, or other matters, please do so on the reverse.