

## Ness Information Service

Nessletter No 88

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## Books Magazines Etc,

Issue number two of 'Strange Magazine' has arrived. Among the varied articles, The Strongest UFO Cases, eight ufology experts present their strongest cases, Paul Devereux writes on Earth Mysteries, a study of the 'Mad' Scientists in the movies; along with columns on Crypto-zoology, Natural Strangeness, etc. In the editorial Mark Chorvinsky apologizes for the issue being late. He says it is taking much longer to put the magazine together than they had anticipated, approximately six months, but they hope it may become speedier as they progress. Mark stresses that despite taking time they intend to try to maintain a high standard, and that subscribers will get four issues per subscription. He asks subscribers to be patient and stick with them.

Champ Channels has resurfaced after an absence of several months, in the form of a double issue. Published by Joe Zarzynski it covers work at Lake Champlain and also carries news about Loch Ness and other areas. Joe also writes a column in the aforementioned Strange Magazine. He says that in future Channels will be published not four times a year, but subscriptions shall be for four issues, which hopefully will appear in a calendar year. Joe reports that during 1987 two firms donated the use of equipment for all intensive six day bottom search for possible carcasses. Klein Associates, Inc. New Hampshire, provided side scan sonar, similar to that used in Loch Ness, I worked with Marty Klein, President of the company, when he was part of the Academy of Applied Science's team at Loch Ness during the early 1970's, he is quite a character. Kaselaan & D'Angelo Associates, Inc. New Jersey, loaned their MiniRover Mk 11 Rov, an underwater robot vehicle with video camera. The Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation team working from the vessel NEPTUNE STAR, used the sonar to trace possible bottom targets, intending to take a closer look at any found, with the ROV. The first time this combination of equipment had been used in this way. Although only a small fraction of the lake was able to be searched in the time available, and no carcasses were located, it shows that it is a viable form of investigation. By way of success the shipwreck of an 86 foot long tugboat 'William H. McAllister' was relocated. In all some 30 days of work was undertaken by the LCPI in 1987. Another new system that was given a trial by John Becker and the LCPI was a video digitizer/computer; used to monitor the lake and turn on the VCR when surface movement, possibly from a surfacing Champ, was detected. Also listed are seven reported Champ sightings for 1987. There are humps, a head/neck, and a dark sinuous object. On September 12th Marilynne and Brent Holden reported seeing at 24 feet distance two dull black humps some three feet long, several photographs were taken using a Canon AEI camera with a 85-205 mm lens, but they were inconclusive. Joe has also produced an updated version of his book 'Champ-Beyond the Legend', first published in 1984 in now contains updates on recent Champ sightings and news about expeditions from 1984-1987. Priced at \$12.95 with postage \$1.75 (U>S>A>) and \$2.75 overseas. Order or information from M-Z information, P.O. Box 21229, Wilton, New York 12866, U.S.A.

BILK 22 (May 1988) produced by Ulrich Magin is the usual treasure of references. One is a book of essays by Antonio Ribera, the Spanish ufologists, in which is mentioned a landsighting Ulrich had not come across before. At the end of 1958, James MacIntosh, an AA patrolman observed the LNI cross the street (road?) in front of his car. It was at daybreak and raining and he later found the monster's tracks in the mud, sceptics said he had only seen a deer. Ribera's source was given as an article by William A. Nicholas, ('El Enigma de Loch Ness' in Mundo Submergido, Jan/Feb 1960). Witchell in his book 'Loch Ness Story' gives a similar account by an AA patrolman, at Brackla on February 2nd 1959. Hamish Mackintosh while phoning a report from a roadside box, saw a large humped body and tall thin neck moving slowly towards the shore. He was later joined by other witnesses, the sighting ended when the body sank straight down with no commotion. Ulrich wonders if the reports are connected, perhaps being the same, with Nicholas getting the facts wrong. He asks if anyone can help solve the riddle.

The University of Illinois Press, publishers of Henry Bauer's book 'The Enigma of Loch Ness', sent a flyer with information of a paperback edition. Publication date, June 3rd 1988, price \$9.95. Henry's book is a very important contribution to the debate on Loch Ness, and essential reading for the serious student of the subject, although perhaps a little heavy for the casual reader. The lower prices of the paperback should find it a home on most Nessie bookshelves.

I have word of a new book about Loch Ness, it will be published in September/October and titled 'Loch Ness'. Written by Richard Frere; of Drumbuie House, Drumnadrochit, it is not strictly a 'monster' book but a definite history of the loch and people that have lived on it's shores since prehistoric times, along with accounts of swimming and water speed attempts etc. In the last chapter 'The Monument To The Dragon' Richard sets out his own views on the monster, although I know he is not of our persuasion, it should be interesting to read the thoughts of a respected local on Nessie. More news about the book when it comes to hand.

On a historic note, The Inverness Courier (founded in 1817) changed editorship/ownership in May 1988. Due to ill health and age Miss Eveline Barron has stepped down after running the paper for 52 1/2 years. Her successor is Mr Stuart Lindsay. The Courier had a hand in the Loch Ness Monster story. It was, reputed that Miss Barron's uncle gave the animals the tag 'monster'. When dealing with the report sent in by the young Alex Campbell, a water bailiff in Fort Augustus, of a sighting by Mr and Mrs Mackay, Dr Evan Barron is said to have commented that, "if it is as big as Campbell says it must be a real monster." The account appeared in the Courier of 2nd May 1933.

Alastair Boyd  
From previous Nessletters members should recall how much effort Alastair puts into watching the loch during his vacations, his interest extends further however. He has a large collection of books, articles, newspaper cuttings, and other items concerning Loch Ness, and undertakes research to try to throw more light on existing evidence. In the course of this research he contacted Mr P. Macnab, who took a photograph of one of the creatures on 29th July 1955, and Mr Richard Frere, whom Alastair believed has information about the Lachlan Stuart photograph, taken on 14th July 1951. These enquiries produced different results, confirmation on one hand and the revelation of a hoax on the other. I have been in touch with the parties concerned and have permission to pass on the replies they gave to Alastair. From Mr Frere came the following, "Dear Mr Boyd, thank you for your letter concerning Stuart's photograph of ?. As you say many years have gone by since 1951 but I happen to remember clearly a meeting at Loch Ness side, in the vicinity of the Whitefield cottage, with a man who represented himself as Lachlan Stuart. At that time I had a timber business and was in need of an additional horse for timber dragging. I had heard that, Stuart had such a beast, or could put me in touch with one, and our meeting was arranged by a third party. I met with Stuart in early August. We discussed the horse but no bargain was struck, even after the woodsman had obligingly offered a dram from his bottle. Before we parted he took me down to the pebble beach where, concealed within a clump of alder or hazel, I was shown, on my promise of silence, three or four bales of hay (as supplied for horses) and some strips of tarpaulin. I was told that these were the 'humps' of ?. S. was proud of his joke, in which he saw no harm, and he was greatly surprised that his photograph had come out at all, as it was taken 'near dark'. I did not enquire at what margin of the day it had been snapped. Stuart considered ? 'a load of nonsense' and poked fun at those who took, it seriously. From this you can see that I did not participate in the hoax, although, perhaps, my silence until recently may be construed as that of an accessory. At that time there was little genuine interest in ? and nobody to which sightings might be reported. Stuart referred to 'his mate' who may, or may not have been the elusive Taylor Hay. From the third paragraph of your letter I gather that you have read Stuart Campbell's book. When I say that I find this is a totally convincing denouement of an example of unmatched human credulity you will see on which side of the fence I sit. Thank you for writing to me. Yours sincerely Richard Frere." This acknowledgement of a hoax removes from the file of acceptable evidence the Lachlan Stuart photograph. It illustrates how very careful writers and researchers must be, Constance Whyte had met and interviewed Mr Stuart and had been convinced he was genuine, and accepted his account and photograph.

Thus a photograph which did not match many of the eye witness account became part of the evidence for the animals, giving rise to a number of outlandish theories to explain it's configuration.

On the other hand Mr Macnab wrote, "Yes, the description you quote is accurate. The viewing lasted for only a minute or two: I was lucky in having just enough time to change camera lenses and take the shot. It was only speculation that prompted me to suggest a second creature behind the two main humps, but it was probably no more than the tailpiece, for only the extreme upper parts appeared 'undulating', ie not sideways like an eel, but vertical undulation, if you follow. Again, I could see no signs of the propulsive organs for the same reason. The picture was taken from about 30 yards above the present main road just above the castle, for I had gone up there seeking a good vantage point for a shot of Urquhart Castle itself. My memories of the actions in taking the picture were understandingly hazy after the lapse of time until experts began to investigate. It was only recently but I realised that the apparent discrepancy between the original and later photographs had a simple explanation: not as I thought, that I had taken a second picture with my other camera, but that I had had a copy made later by a local photographer where marginal details were omitted. Subsequent prints were made from this negative. I have no longer any prints from the original, indeed the negative has disappeared, but copies did appear in the then 'Weekly Scotsman' and in the book 'More than a Monster' by the Inverness lady, Mrs Constance Whyte - back in the 60s. In the face of vague scepticism by the experts with my early explanations I'll just let things drift now. The main thing is my (copy) negative was closely analysed by two of the leading universities in U S A and accepted as genuine - and as an amateur photographer I wouldn't know how to fake anything anyway! I was informed by the above-mentioned Mrs Whyte that a party of motorists on the opposite side of Loch Ness had a viewing similar to mine soon afterwards, on the same day, but had no camera to record the incident. The day was windless, the loch dead calm, no boat in sight, and all the references to 'logs' and 'waves' are wishful scepticism. Anyone who knows Loch Ness can appreciate why there have been no actual proofs through research. Here is 'something' that had appeared in the loch during the last 10,000 years, when the last ice left the valley. I can only suggest some form of sea creature ascending the short flat River Ness during flood-waters and a family becoming established in the loch. Loch Ness, with two cubic miles of water, 700 feet deep, like a long box with precipitous sides, slimy underwater cliffs, doubtless with undercut caves, dark peaty water, a bottom littered with waterlogged logs and peaty detrius - no wonder research is difficult. I hope the above ramblings have been of some interest to you - I might add that as I am now 84 years of age, perhaps my recollections are understandably hazy! Yours sincerely P A Macnab" I believe Alastair wrote to Mr Macnab in the first instance to try to get an answer to the question raised by Roy Mackal in his book (The Monsters of Loch Ness). There are two versions of the Macnab photograph, Mackal questioned this. I think the above letter gives the answer. Just one little thing bothered me. Why? Why was it necessary to copy the original? I telephoned Mr Macnab and the simple answer he gave was that by the late 1960's the original negative was showing signs of wear and tear. He talked it over with a local photographer and was advised that one possible solution was to re-photograph a good print, and so produce a new negative. That was done, unfortunately in such a manner that there were some slight differences between the two negatives. So after the late 1960's any prints were taken from the reproduced negative, giving rise to the questions, and now, thanks to Alastair, the explanations.

#### Sightings

The Press and Journal carried a story early in January, a group of five people reported seeing something unusual in the loch. Aberdeen student, Laura Miller, along with four friends were between the Clansman Hotel and Urquhart Bay at about 3 pm when they saw 'something like a black log' in the water. They said it was very big and showed two humps, it was creating waves and the water was making a considerable noise. No further information about weather conditions, loch surface, or boat traffic. On Monday may 9th 1988, Frank Iannella, from Colorado, while on a minibus tour to Loch Ness visited Castle Urquhart. As he made his way down the hill towards the castle, he saw something breaking the surface of the small bay to his right. He said, "I saw several backs swimming westwards away from me in a slow and graceful movement. There was no sign of any head."

"He called the objects to the attention of fellow tourists Bill and Grace Grefe. Bill agreed that it did look like the monster, claiming to be able to see a large dark shape beneath the humps which were re-appearing and disappearing every five to ten seconds. Grace's reaction was that she could see the humps but thought that perhaps they were fish. No more weather or surface information, or any mention of boats in the area.

I present both these reports as I got them; however my own thoughts are that they could both be the result of boat activity, more investigation would need to be done, before they could be accepted as good evidence.

Erik Beckjord

Since reporting Erik's '1987 expedition' in NIS83 I have had a steady stream of letters from him. He does not agree with my opinion the Crosbie photos are of some sort of waterbird. He has sent a list of people who state that the object causing the wake is not, a loon, a cormorant, a duck, a swan, it is not any kind of snake; nor is it likely to be a whale, a porpoise, a seal, a manatee, a deer, an otter, no invertebrate would create such a wake or look like that in the water. These people include D.L. Soltz, head of Biology Dept, California State University, Dr Carlos Robles, Biologist, CSU-LA, Michael Cunningham, Curator of Birds LA Zoo, H.M. Fischer, Curator of Reptiles, LA Zoo, Dr Heyning, Marine mammals. Erik says that we are running out of known animals to explain the photographs, so suggests it must be an animal new to science. Or that it could also be something moving that is still not an animal. He says that up to now investigators/researchers have operated on two theories, believers holding to the zoological theory, sceptics persuing the hoax-mistake theory. Erik now advances a third theory; the phenomenon in Loch Ness in a form of intelligent energy, an intelligent, or sentient energy-form, that the phenomena is life, intelligence in a new and difficult to understand form, energy. Erik is not the first to put forward this idea, or similar, and versions have been covered in earlier Nessletters. Erik says "The time of zoologists at Loch Ness is over. The time for physicists and cosmologists has now come." However he wrote in a later letter that Dr Bruce Maccabee, in the US equivalent of JARIC, has become interested in Loch Ness and has analyzed the Crosbie photos, and feels there is something extraordinary there. He is an optical physicist, working for the US Navy, and according to Erik feels that the object is 48 feet long, and has a shield-shaped head. Charles Wyckoff, who as a member of the Academy of Applied Sciences has used his photographic expertise on the Academy's expeditions, examined the Crosbie photos and agrees the object is extraordinary. Wyckoff, Maccabee and Erik are co-authoring a field report on the Crosbie photos. Erik quoted a portion of a critique (sent to the ISC) written by a well known English photo-analyst and photographer. It is "There is a clear indication in the photos of a larger object at the front of the pattern. The author may quite legitimately call this a 'head' if he wishes, but that is certainly only a matter of interpretation and he should state that clearly." Erik seems to set great store by this, saying perhaps I will at last announce that there are no ducks in those photos. But the important term is 'certainly only a matter of interpretation', that is the problem with the Crosbie photos, whatever was photographed is not clear/close enough to be identified. Erik has been kind enough to send me enlargements of the head of the wake in photo 14, but even so nothing of value can be seen. U.K. members will know Ginger Snap biscuits, the print Erik sent me looks just like a close up of one, you can see the juxtaposition of grains giving the 'cat-like' features, but in other areas you can also 'see' a racoon and chimp faces. For USA members, perhaps a pieces of foam rubber would be close. So I am still of the opinion that it is a waterbird of some kind, not a duck, I never suggested a duck, they float to high, it is a diver of some type. Erik will be at the loch this year, probably August, he hopes to be accompanied by several American and UK members of the Cryptozoological Society. Anyone wishing to contact them should leave a message at the Loch Ness Lodge Hotel, where they will stay for part of time.

That is all for now, must start packing for our trip to Ness, will be there July 23rd/August 5th. Alastair and Sue Boyd will be a Strone 30th July/27th August. Please remember your news and views are always welcome, my address is:- R.R. Hepple, Huntshieldsford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ. Tel (0388) 537359. Subs U.K. £2.75, U.S.A. \$9.00.