

NESS INFORMATION SERVICE
 NESSLETTER 126
 DEC '94 (June '96)

BOOKS ETC.

Over the years I have continued to recommend the magazine Fortean Times. Some time ago they converted, successfully, from subscription only to the newsstand. They have now taken another progressive step, by becoming monthly. Once again they seem to have succeeded. Time will tell if increased frequency will affect the high standard of quality set over the years.

Just received issue two of Alien Encounters this is a new magazine dedicated to UFOs. Contents: articles on UFOs, Greys, Ancient Astronauts, Roswell/Santilli update, etc, about 100 glossy pages. Not everyone's taste but if you have an interest in such things it could be worth looking for.

Recently received catalogue 43, winter '95/'96, from Steven Simpson Natural History Books. There is a section of books on Cryptozoology which is of some interest. As with most of these dealers prices are somewhat steep for my pocket, e.g. 'Loch Ness Monster', Tim Dinsdale, £22.50; 'The Monsters of Loch Ness', R.P. Mackal, £40.00. However it could be a useful source for serious students. Address: 23 Melton Street, Melton Constable, NR24 2DB. Tel: 01-263-868-170. Business by mail.

A new book on UFOs, just released by Llewellyn Publications is, Strange Encounters: UFOs, Aliens and Monsters Among Us. Written by Curt Sutherly, author, journalist, ufologist, it looks at the world of the unexplained with fifteen unique stories gathered from his own journalistic investigations. One includes an interview with Kenneth Arnold, first pilot to officially report and document the sightings of UFOs. This is an American publication so will be obtainable in bookstores over there, but may be more difficult to get hold of here. (ISBN:1.56718.699.8).

Over recent years Karl Shuker has established himself as one of the world's leading experts in Cryptozoology. Since qualifying with a Phd. in zoology from Birmingham University he extended his lifelong interest into Cryptozoology. He has travelled worldwide researching various aspects and used his findings as basis for numerous articles as well as several books on the subject. His latest is 'In Search of Prehistoric Survivors', sub-title 'Do Giant Extinct Creatures Still Exist'. He develops his subject by illustrating his belief that modern science has numerous records of newly discovered creatures that are not recognized for what they are. That is living instances of prehistoric creatures thought to be long dead. This is the best book on the subject for many years. Up there with with Bernard Heuvelman's 'On The Track of Unknown Animals'. Foreword by Prof. Roy P. Mackal with chapters including 'Things with Wings', 'Monsters from Ancient Waters', 'Lions with Pouches, Horses with Claws'. Difficult to judge such a work. His writing on Loch Ness and other Lake Monsters is impressive. Not the easiest book to read, Karl does not write candyfloss stuff, but for the interested mind and serious student it must be highly commended. (ISBN 0-7137-2469-2).

In a short letter Colin McKay, Coatbridge Scotland, gave details of a video he had purchased. Entitled 'The Loch Ness Monster' and produced in 1994 by Castle Vision, serial number JME 1758, approx 50 minutes running time.. Colin said he found it well produced with relatively up to date information. He got it on special offer for £6.99 from newsagents John Menzies, correct price £10.99. Suggested N.H. Smith as a source.

Another video, press release from Kelowna Museum. The Museum, in co-operation with CHBC-TV, announced the release of the first programme-length video to explore the myth and reality of Ogopogo; the creature said to inhabit the depths of Okanagan lake in British Columbia, Canada. From Indian legend through the present, stories of Na-ha-ha-itk or Ogopogo, have captivated the imaginations of Okanagan resident, and visitor alike. Using historic records, first hand accounts and interviews with scientists, this new video presents a unique and compelling look at a truly mysterious creature. For more information about this video: Kelowna Museum, 470 Queensway, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 6S7. Price quoted is \$19.95 +

taxes and shipping. Obviously aimed at the north American market, it may not be available in the correct format.

Andreas Trottmann let me know his Loch Ness Newsclipping Service (NIS124) is up and running. He had been hoping to incorporate the American 'Durrant's Press Cutting Service' with it. He has now costed that out and unfortunately found it would be too expensive. So the format remains the same for now.

He also included news that a French computer multimedia company 'E.M.M.E. Interactive' has published a CD-Rom, 'Mythes et Legendes' (in French only) with a quite substantial and well made chapter on the Loch Ness enigma.

I know some like to collect Nessie memorabilia. Jeff Rumble, Truro, who gave us news of Morgawr (NIS125) also sent word of a teapot. As part of a made in Cornwall campaign a local pottery came up with a monster teapot. Jeff says, 'It is quite a nice thing costing £15. Crafty craftsman sells it as Morgawr down here, and Nessie elsewhere.' Anyone interested let me know and I will make further enquiries.

FAN CLUB

Another new organization. On Wednesday 14th March '96 Gary Campbell, a 30 year old insurance company area manager, was in the carpark below Abriachan when he had a brief sighting. The object, a black hump, 2 or 3 feet high, was travelling towards the Dores end of the loch, between 1/4 and 1/2 a mile out from Aldourie Point, 1/2 a mile from him. It briefly surfaced and submerged and then did the same again about ten feet further on towards Lochend. That was over a space of about ten seconds in all. Wind was from the East and surface choppy. He said there were no boats in the vicinity and the object did not appear to leave a wash. He later followed up the sighting by meeting up with Steve Feltham. The details above came from a sighting report form he completed for Steve. Point or three here; the car park below Abriachan? Is that the turning place at the bottom of the hill, or a lay-by nearer Lochend? Aldourie Point? I think he is referring to Tor point. First impression is that it was a typical boat wake pattern.

Anyway, four or five weeks later the newspapers had articles that Gary had been surprised there appeared to be no central point for such sightings, or for Nessie fans just wanting further information about the Monster. Wonder what he thought Steve is doing, as well as Adrian Shine and the Project or the Loch Ness Exhibitions, not to mention the NIS. So he and his wife had decided to form The Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club. He rang me in mid-June and has become a NIS member. He sent me the Fan Club information. It is intended to post lists of sightings around the loch. Upon joining you get individual membership certificate, club badge, introductory newsletter, quality Nessie souvenir, Nessie postcards to report any sightings on the loch, subscription is £7.50 or £12 for overseas membership. Address is:- 9 Burnbrae Place, Inverness, IV1 2TA. It seems interest in the loch has been revitalised, perhaps due to the film 'Loch Ness'. If the Fan Club is to produce useful lists of sightings there is a need for Gary to do as much research and investigation of each as possible before publishing it, or at least make it clear that the reports are unsubstantiated.

While writing about new organizations, I have had further word from the Loch Ness Society. Their first expedition 'Attractant '96' is to be based at the Invermoriston Camp Site from July 20th to 3rd August. Ian Kelloway kindly sent me the details. As well their LNS News Spring '96. There was also membership subscription rates, individual £12.50, family (max 5 in same household) £20.

At this point I think all I will say is look at the bottom of the Newsletter for our NIS subscription rates!!

STEVE FELTHAM

Just recieved a short letter from Steve. He started by wishing me Happy New Year, it is that long since he wrote. As he says it is the age old Loch Ness problem of being so absorbed in what is going on, he never quite gets around to writing. He said 'you should see the pile of letters that I've to reply to!'

The hunting is still going as constantly as ever, plus a good friend of Steve's, Guy Rossi (NIS member), has provided him with a 15 foot Gemini, semi-rigid inflatable, with 25hp motor. So he now has permanent water access. Which is part of the reason why he has been made a reporting auxillary Coastguard. The other, that he now has a mobile phone so the Coastguard can contact him in an emergency. No, he says, he did not get it off the back of that Vodaphone ad. Unfortunately he already had it.

Steve enclosed two sighting reports with the letter. One, the Gary Campbell, I have already used. The other was John Northcote, Canalside, Fort Augustus, on 1st March '96. His account reads, 'Just before noon I was looking out of the end window of my friend Meg's cotage, which has a good view of part of Loch Ness. A wake passed the mouth of the canal moving left to right. No boats had passed and no boats were on this part of the loch that day. Meg and I then went outside with binoculars for a better view. After a few minutes what looked like a large brown mass passed in the opposite direction, without breaking the surface or without producing a wake this time. Four salmon jumped just ahead of the brown mass. We are used to the moods of the loch but this was something we have never seen before. We drove down to the canal entrance but there was no sign of what we had seen.'

Weather conditions were very mild, light breezes, surface calm to light ripple with very good visibility. Size of brown mass was estimated at twelve metres long, travelling at about 3-4 knots.

Unusual report, I do not like underwater sightings. As I always point out I feel seeing something through the surface is problematical and questionable. But at mid-day the sun would be behind them, shining up the loch, which would help eliminate reflection. Also we have here witnesses living with views of the loch, so they should know what they were seeing and be aware of the many ways things can be misinterpreted. So in this case my usual reaction needs to be reconsidered. Unusal report, but possibly sound.

As Steve was writing the letter he had a call from Dave Munroe, at Craighdarroch Hotel, Foyers. It was 9.45pm, a beautiful calm evening, (Thursday 13th June '96). Dave, his wife Kate and sixteen guest had just watched a wake moving very quickly down the loch. I have ben in touch with Dave and he gave me the details, which were the same as Steve passed on. The Craighdarroch Hotel has extensive views of the loch, and a reputation for good food, by the way. As she worked, Kate's attention was drawn to the wake moving at speed across Foyers Bay. There was apparently nothing on the surface causing it. She went and told Dave. They went outside with binoculars to try to make out what it was, eventually being joined by the guests. The wake, similar in size to that of a clinker built loch boat, had froth or foam at it's head and was going across the bay about half a mile away, almost as fast as a jet-ski. Even through the glasses nothing solid could be made out above the surface. It eventually went out of sight behind the trees on the headland, going towards Fort Augustu. The whole episode took 7 or 8 minutes.

Once again witnesses who live, and work, within sight of the loch. Therefore could be expected to know the water and effects on it by boats etc. the speed is an unusual feature. Nessie is reported, from time to time, to move fast, but that fast? If binoculars had not been used it could be suggested there was a surface craft of some sort, that merged into the watery background. Other than that there appears to be no simple explanation.

Steve closed by saying the monster hunting life is still very good. Mel has now left the scene, so he says there are no distractions again. his van is due for MOT test soon, he hopes without too much bother.

SIGHTINGS

In early April the Inverness Courier had a report of a sighting by two family groups. Bill Kinder, a disc jockey from Lancashire, with his wife and children was driving North from Fort Augustus, on Tuesday 9th April '96. About 10 o'clock, they were about half a mile from Fort Augustus. They spotted a trail about 30 feet long in the water. He slowed right down and saw something black come right out of the water. He first thought it was a rock but has been told by locals there are no rocks there. He is sure it was not a boat. Saying, 'It was shiny black, like a seal's skin. We

did not see any head, but I can only think it was what people call the Loch Ness Monster.' Youngest son Darren (11) said he had seen three humps in the water. Mother, Jackie, also saw a hump in the water.

In the car behind the Kinder's were Yurong Ling, from London, his wife Wensa and colleague Mike Ma. They confirmed seeing something they thought unusual in the loch. A long trail in the water and two humps. Yurong said he could not explain what it was, he thought it could be the wake of a boat, but there were no boats on the water.

Both families reported their experience to the Original Loch Ness Exhibition at the Loch Ness Lodge Hotel Drumnadrochit. The same day Philip Evett, from Devon, had taken them a photograph showing what he thought was another inexplicable wake. It had been taken on Saturday 5th August '95, two miles South of Castle Urquhart. Philip, who is an annual visitor to the area, says he does not believe in the monster, but had been intrigued by the wake and taken a photograph. He said, 'It definitely not the wake of a boat. Far off in the photograph is a boat with a particular kind of wake and what I photographed is very different. I cannot explain what it is, but I think there is something there.'

The Courier printed the picture and there is a dark wave/hump on the surface, which is calm. The left of the photograph is trees, with the wave/hump showing to the right, above more trees. There is the white streak of a wake pattern clearly visible, about half way across the loch. This, I feel is a clear indication that the dark wave/hump is in fact the opposite arm of that wake, travelling past and towards the camera position. I also feel the Kinder and Ling reports are of a boat wake. Yurong Ling said there were no boats on the water. The road along the loch from Fort Augustus does not offer much in the way of views as the loch is screened by trees and secondary growth. So views of the loch are very limited, any boat could be far away out of sight behind vegetation before it's wake passed by an opening to be seen.

For the benefit of newer members and those who have not been able to visit the loch, perhaps I should try to clarify the term 'boat wake'. This is not the propeller wash from the stern of a motor vessel. A boat hull needs to displace water as it moves along, this causes waves, forming a vee from the bows. Each arm of the vee forms a pattern of straight waves moving at an angle away from the craft's line of travel. After some distance they tend to roll forward at a steeper angle and sometimes break. It is this effect which appears as humps, more so on a calm surface. The waves then return to their original line of movement for some time before repeating the move. This can continue for some distance, the time/space between turns becoming less as the energy in the wake disappates. Eventually the wake reaches a shore or the energy runs out. The technical term for this is a Kelvin Wave Pattern. This happens on any stretch of water. However, in a straight body of water with the width of Loch Ness, it can take as much as half an hour for the wake to come from the middle of the loch to the shore. In that time the boat that created it can be far away along the loch.

N.I.S. AT THE LOCHSIDE

Short note from Val Smith, Ely, who hopes to be at the loch, with his son, between 27th July and 10th August. Based in Foyers area, driving blue Metro reg. G48 GHE.

Word from Andreas Trottmann, he and Angela will be at Strone mid/late July. He understands that Henry Bauer, from Virginia, will there around the same time. As well as Alastiat and Sue Boyd, at the chalet. I hope to be at the pier, Abricahan, Doris and Audrey as usual, from 21st July to 3rd August. Yellow transit motorcaravan B521 MEF.

I have letters/notes from ten of our members, who visited the loch for various periods over the past months. Fuller account next time.

That is all for now. Please remember your news and views are always welcome and needed. My address remains:- R.R.Hepple, 7 Huntshildford, St John's Chaple, Weardale, Co Durham, DL13 1RQ. tel. 01388 537359. Subs U.K.£2.75. U.S.A. \$10.00.

Rip.