

BIOFORTEAN NOTES

VOLUME 8

CHAD ARMENT, EDITOR

COACHWHIP PUBLICATIONS

Greenville, Ohio

The Editor can be contacted at:
Coachwhip.Books@gmail.com

BioFortean Notes, Volume 8

© 2023 Coachwhip Publications

All individual articles © their respective authors.

CoachwhipBooks.com

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the author or publisher.

Historical texts and images not public domain are limited in use strictly for the purposes of criticism, comment, education, and research, per Title 17 of the United States Code (USC Title 17 § 107), and are fully cited.

Contents

BIOFORTEAN BIOLUMINESCENCE

Chad Arment

A SURVEY OF WEST COAST 'SEA SERPENT' FOLKLORE

Chad Arment

BIOFORTEAN MISCELLANY

Chad Arment

THE KONGAMATO

Frank H. Melland, *In Witch-Bound Africa* (1923)

BioFortean Bioluminescence

Chad Arment

I have previously discussed cases of luminous mystery animals, possible as-yet-undescribed species, which were distinctive enough to attract attention but which haven't been preserved for taxonomic description. One was a bioluminescent spider seen by paleontologist Barnum Brown in central Burma (now Myanmar) that escaped collection (and his published note on that garnered a report of a similar spider in India), while another was an alleged luminous caterpillar in Queensland, Australia, that died during pupation and sadly wasn't preserved. The latter was collected by a bioluminescence researcher who had encountered local stories of a glowing moth, but unfortunately he died before being able to confirm this (Arment 2016).

Bioluminescence is far more common in marine organisms (whether in conjunction with luminous bacteria or directly by invertebrate or vertebrate) than in terrestrial or freshwater species. It shouldn't surprise anyone that there are likely many undescribed bioluminescent marine species (or even known species which weren't previously recognized as bioluminescent). A few interesting published discoveries:

A distinct clade of free-swimming acrocirrid worms, within the genus *Swima*, produce luminous 'bombs' as a defensive measure deep in the ocean (Osborn et al. 2009).

Martini et al. (2020) noted that there was a history of 'dubious' reports of luminous sponges: "The first record of autogenous sponge luminescence in a 19th-century mention of light-emitting sponge embryos. . . . Other

observations of luminous sponges over the next several decades were ultimately attributed to worms or other invertebrates living in the pores of the sponge tissue. . . . One record from the 20th century describes light being emitted from a sponge itself . . . , but this has been considered doubtful by later authors. . . . A recent publication claims the discovery of a luminous sponge (Demospongiae, *Suberites domuncula*) and a luciferase, however, the authors argue that this marine sponge uses a firefly luciferase homolog and firefly luciferin as its luminescence system. . . .” They point out that it can be difficult to distinguish between sponge luminescence from symbiotic bacteria or other organisms living within the sponge. Through more rigorous testing, the authors determined that an as yet undescribed sponge related to *Chondrocladia* and *Cladorhiza* has a coelenterazine-related bioluminescent system.

A previously known species of sipunculan worm (peanut worm), *Nephasoma pellucidum*, was shown to be bioluminescent (Oliveira et al. 2021).

An undescribed *Polycirrus* worm (Terebellidae) from Japan emits violet light from its filamentous tentacles (Kanie et al. 2021).

In 2015, the presence of photophores was determined on the deep-sea velvet dogfish, *Zameus squamulosus*, but it wasn’t until Duchatelet et al. (2021) that luminescence was observed and confirmed. This made the Somniosidae the third family of sharks confirmed to include bioluminescent species. All three families are within the Squaliformes, suggesting descent from a common bioluminescent ancestor, with other families losing the ability.

Sadly, no evidence has arisen since William Beebe’s historic 1932 dive, with Otis Barton in a bathysphere off Bermuda’s Nonsuch

Island, to support his claim of seeing a new bioluminescent fish which he named *Bathysphaera intacta*. In a 1986 interview, Barton said he suspected Beebe was “inventing.” While both men saw a strange fish go by, Barton noted, “It was near the end of the broadcast and he was kind of nervous, as if he didn’t know what else to say. His description of *bathysphaera intacta* sounded a little fishy to me. I’m not calling him a liar; he had a better view than me. But this species hadn’t been seen before and I don’t think since” (Kent 1986).

MORE LUMINOUS SPIDERS?

As noted, Brown (1925) reported a luminous spider in Burma, and later (Brown 1926) related a report he received about a spider at Shillong, in Assam (India), that had luminescent spots on its abdomen. Brown (1925b) pointed out that he was close enough to his spider to see that only the abdomen glowed, so considered a true luminous organ the best explanation. Interestingly, Chatragadda (2020) stated that he had a recent report of a luminous spider from India’s northeast hill region. It produced an intense yellow light like a firefly. The spider itself was a lime yellow color. Unfortunately, none of these spiders have been collected.

I did run across a historical mention of luminous spiders near Germantown, Pennsylvania, where a Lloyd Mifflin wrote the Linnean Society in Lancaster about his observation (Anon. 1873). He reported that the spiders were found in chinks in a stone wall, and glowed in the dark like glow-worms, but on inspection, they appeared to have been feeding on fireflies and had smeared their faces with luminous material. He wondered if it might not have been intentional, to create a decoy for other insects, but discussion in the group chalked it up to accidental luminosity.

Probably the weirdest story of glowing spiders comes from columnist Paul Carpenter (1997), who noted that while aboard a KC-135 tanker observing a refueling mission over Colorado, the pilot showed him some large glowing spiders crawling on the outside of the windshield. “The pilot laughed as I dumbfoundedly gawked at the unearthly spiders. Then he said it was only Saint Elmo’s fire, a weird form of static electricity.”

GLOWING GECKOS?

Ivan T. Sanderson's glowing lizard from Trinidad has been effectively explained as reflective ocellar scales (Shuker 2017), but Chatragadda (2020) contributed another candidate for a possible luminous lizard. This was a gecko, described by Sharma (1980), who noted: "While surveying the Madar foot hills near Ajmer (Rajasthan) in August 1973 during middle of night I came across this peculiar new Geckonid species on the uneven, [barren], stony terrain. I was astonished to see that the lizard was shedding bright light in darkness from its body while moving slowly towards a bush. The mode of progression of the Gecko was so slow that it was easily captured and made a feeble attempt to escape. . . . It was slowly moving like a [chameleon] on its four limbs, keeping its body sufficiently raised from the ground. The white bands and spots on the dorsum of the lizard were glowing constantly like a series of candles in darkness." Sharma named it *Cyrtodactylus madarensis*.

Khandal (2021) noted that in 1992, another herpetologist (Dr. Indraneil Das) argued that Sharma's gecko was actually *Eublepharis*, specifically *E. macularius* (the common leopard gecko). So, it's not a lizard that glows (though I'm sure the pet trade would be thrilled by such a discovery). The 'glow' may have been completely mistaken, or perhaps the result of some luminous bacterial infection.

Chatragadda (2020) noted a second description of a bioluminescent gecko, *Velicham thoovunna*, in 1999, but this appears to have been made in the Kerala-based magazine *Sasthrakeralam*, sent out to secondary school students. The article is not in English, so I'm unable to comment on it, but the illustration is some sort of banded gecko, probably not detailed enough to make a diagnosis. It is likely a *nomen nudum*.

BIOLUMINESCENT MILLIPEDES

A recent news article (Date and McDougall 2022) reported that a bushwalker, Scott Kemp, had discovered glowing millipedes in the Illawarra bush (New South Wales) 18 years ago. He was looking for biofluorescent scorpions, but noted that the millipedes glowed on their own. Recently he and another bioluminescence enthusiast, David Finlay, went back and relocated the millipedes. Entomologist

Dr. Dennis Black stated he had seen similar millipedes in NSW 25 years prior, but thought it was due to bioluminescent bacteria. He suggested (from Finlay's photos) that they were spirobolid millipedes. The newspaper account noted that millipedes in California (xystodesmids of the genus *Motyxia*) are known to luminesce, but they are in a different order of millipedes. It was suggested that these are a new species of millipede.

Now, we actually know that there is a group of spirobolid millipedes that are luminescent. They've been known from Australo-Pacific islands since the 1930s, so it's not a surprise that a similar species might be found in Australia. It might even be the same species. *Paraspirobolus lucifugus* (syn. *Spirobolellus phosphoreus*) is a tropical cosmopolitan (Oba et al. 2011), but is known specifically from Taiwan, Okinawa, and Truk Island (now Chuuk Lagoon, Micronesia) (Oba et al. 2017). It is not consistently luminous, as stimulation may be necessary to provoke a weak glow. On New Caledonia, a rhinocricid millipede, *Dinematocricus* sp., is also known to be bioluminescent (Haneda 1967).

Here in the U.S., all known luminous millipedes are currently recognized to be *Motyxia* (Means et al. 2021), all in California. (Another reported luminous species, *Xystocheir bistipita*, has been moved into *Motyxia*.) But there is one old report of an alleged luminous millipede from Nebraska. Bruner (1891) said that in 1877, he "was living on a farm about 3 miles west of the city of Omaha, Nebraska, and devoted some time to collecting insects. One night, a damp one and rather cool, during the month of June, or possibly later in the summer, as he was walking through a pasture that had not been burnt over for a number of years, something that looked like a double series of small beads of fire was observed crawling about among the dead grass. . . . An investigation was accordingly made and resulted in the taking of three or four moderately large [myriapods] which were producing the light. These were carried to the house, and next day transferred to an ordinary tin cigar box where they were placed between layers of fresh green moss, and put away in a shady nook behind the house. In this locality they were kept alive for a week or more, and examined carefully day after day.

"That these were not the larvae of some Elaterid, but true [Myriapods] there can be no doubt. They were a many-jointed affair, with

two pairs of legs to each joint. Then, too, they laid a dozen or more eggs while confined in the cigar box between the layers of moss. These eggs were globular, of a semitransparent whitish color; and were, as nearly as remembered now, about 1.75 to 2 millimetres in diameter. The full-grown [myriapods] were very similar in their general appearance to our common prairie 'many-leg' that often occurs by the millions and is then known as the 'army worm.' The luminous species now under consideration is, however, a trifle the larger form. As nearly as memory serves, they must have been fully 1½ to 1¾ inches in length and one-fourth inch in width. In color they were yellowish brown, and had the edges of each segment margined with a narrow yellow line above. There were also two small round yellow marks upon each segment dorsally, one near each lateral edge. These latter were about 1 millimetre in diameter, and were the source of the phosphorescence when the animal was placed in the dark. The light that was emitted was whitish and, if it is remembered correctly, more marked or intense at one time than another."

Bruner stated that he compared them to a figure of the larva of *Melanactes piceus* (a click beetle) at the suggestion of one entomologist, but did not believe that was the answer. He had since lost the specimens, but hoped someone else might have come across the creatures. The species was briefly described a couple years later as *Fontaria luminosa*, but is now considered a *nomen inquerinda* (a species of doubtful identity). Causey and Tiemann (1969) suggested that the original reports were based on beetle larvae (*Phengodes*, or glowworms) though a fragment of the type specimen in the U.S. National Museum is xystodesmid.

Fontaria's alleged luminescent pattern is certainly different from *Motyxia*, so it seems plausible that it was a misidentification. But, it might be worthwhile for any Nebraskan invertebrate fans to do some rural investigation.

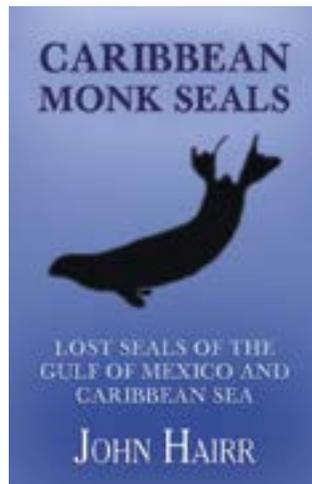
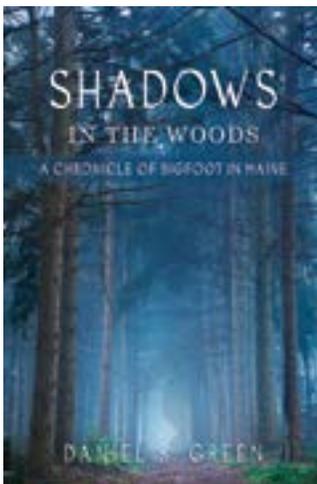
REFERENCES

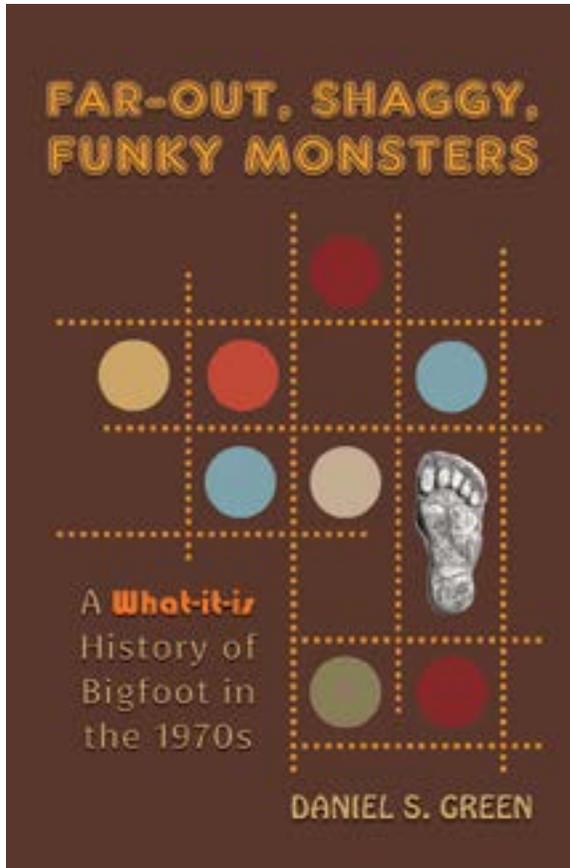
- Anonymous. 1873. Local Intelligence: The Linnaean. Lancaster, Pennsylvania, *Daily Evening Express* (June 30).
- Arment, C. 2016. Brief notes. *BioFortean Notes* Vol. 5.
- Brown, B. 1925. A luminous spider. *Nature* 115: 981.

- Brown, B. 1925b. Reply: Luminous spiders. *Science* 62(1606): 329.
- Brown, B. 1926. Another luminous spider. *Science* 63(1632): 383.
- Bruner, L. 1891. Phosphorescent myriapods. *Insect Life* 3(7-8): 319-321.
- Carpenter, P. 1997. UFO stories create doubts about doubts. Allentown, Pennsylvania, *Morning Call* (June 27).
- Causey, N. B., and D. L. Tiemann. 1969. A revision of the bioluminescent millipedes of the genus *Motyxia* . . . *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 113(1): 14-33.
- Chatragadda, R. 2020. Terrestrial and marine bioluminescent organisms from the Indian subcontinent: A review. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 192(747): 1-30.
- Date, M., and L. McDougall. 2022. Bioluminescent millipedes believed to be found for first time in Australia by Illawarra bushwalkers. *ABC Illawarra* (Dec 14) <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-15/bioluminescent-millipedes-discovered-nsw-bushwalkers/101769580>
- Duchatelet, L., R. Marion, and J. Mallefet. 2021. A third luminous shark family: Confirmation of luminescence ability for *Zameus squamulosus* (Squaliformes; Somniosidae). *Photochemistry and Photobiology* 97(4): 739-744.
- Haneda, Y. 1967. A fourth luminous millipede, *Dinematocrius* sp. from Noumea, New Caledonia. *Science Report of the Yokosuka City Museum*. (13): 1-4.
- Kanie, S., et al. 2021. Violet bioluminescent *Polycirrus* sp. (Annelida: Terebelliformia) discovered in the shallow coastal waters of the Noto Peninsula in Japan. *Scientific Reports* 11: 19097.
- Kent, A. 1986. We were too cautious—pioneer sea explorer. Victoria, British Columbia, *Times Colonist* (Dec. 13): A3.
- Khandal, D. 2021. The glowing lizard of Madar Mountain: An appeal to herpetologists. *Rajasthan Biodiversity* (Aug. 11) <https://rajasthanbiodiversity.org/the-glowing-lizard-of-madar-mountain-an-appeal-to-herpetologists/>
- Martini, S., et al. 2020. Bioluminescence in an undescribed species of carnivorous sponge (Cladorhizidae) from the deep sea. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 7:576476.
- Means, J. C., et al. 2021. Phylogenetic systematics of the millipede family Xystodesmidae. *Insect Systematics and Diversity* 5(2): 1-26.

- Oba, Y., M. A. Branham, and T. Fukatsu. 2011. The terrestrial bioluminescent animals of Japan. *Zoological Science* 28(11): 771-789.
- Oba, Y., et al. 2017. Selected least studied but not forgotten bioluminescent systems. *Photochemistry and Photobiology* 93: 405-415.
- Oliveira, A. G., et al. 2021. First record of bioluminescence in a sipunculan worm. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8: 762706.
- Osborn, K. J., et al. 2009. Deep-sea, swimming worms with luminescent 'bombs.' *Science* 325(Aug. 21): 964.
- Shuker, K. 2017. The lightbulb lizard of Benjamin Shreve—Illuminating a herpetological controversy from Trinidad. *ShukerNature* <http://karlshuker.blogspot.com/2017/06/the-lightbulb-lizard-of-benjamin-shreve.html>

COACHWHIPBOOKS.COM





Far-Out, Shaggy, Funky Monsters:
A What-it-is History of Bigfoot in the 1970s
Daniel S. Green

FOSFM is an engaging, detailed look at the 1970s, when Bigfoot moved from being an oddity from the Pacific Northwest to entrenchment in the North American cultural landscape. Author Dan Green objectively reviews the researchers, the sightings, and the theories that dominated the media and thrilled the public.

A Survey of West Coast 'Sea Serpent' Folklore

Chad Arment

I've previously surveyed published accounts of pre-1950s 'Bigfoot' reports in books (*The Historical Bigfoot*, currently a second edition), North American mystery carnivores (*Varmints*), and oversized terrestrial snakes of North America (*Boss Snakes*). My original plans were to then survey North American river and lake monster folklore, but that is currently on hold with too many other projects taking priority. The recent passing of Gary Mangiacopra, veteran archival researcher into all things Fortean, though, has revived my surveying interest for at least one article here. Gary had hoped to do a book on sea serpents, and I have his printed manuscript somewhere. Unfortunately, Gary was not able to cross the technological divide, which made editing and publishing his work difficult for expansive projects. I think he'd have enjoyed this collection of accounts, though.

This is a general survey of 'sea serpents' (most not all that reptilian, which won't surprise anyone who is familiar with such accounts) from North America's west coast, Baja California all the way up to Alaska. A few locations are well-known for ethnozoological 'mascots,' at least historically: Caddy from British Columbia, and the San Clemente sea monster from California. There is a diversity of morphology, which suggests misidentification of known species and eyewitness errors do play their part. But there are also some intriguing similarities that show up time and again, suggesting a similar unrecognized biological phenotype (possibly more than one) is being described by witnesses in different places and at different times. Hard evidence? No. Worth continued investigation? Yes.

A crash course in sea serpent lore should include Oudemans' *The Great Sea Serpent* (1892), Heuvelmans' *In the Wake of the Sea Serpents* (1968), Shuker's *Still in Search of Prehistoric Survivors* (2016), Coleman and Huyghe's (2003) *Field Guide to Lake Monsters*,

Sea Serpents, ..., and O'Neill's *The Great New England Sea Serpent* (1999). Specifically on a west coast sea serpent is LeBlond and Bousfield's *Cadborosaurus: Survivor from the Deep* (1995), while Bauer and Russell (1993-1996) offered a skeptical critique. Additional Caddy accounts can be found in LeBlond and Sibert (1973). I'm not focusing here on lake monsters from Lake Okanagan and the like, but for reports there, see books by Arlene Gaal and John Kirk.

On the academic front, Naish (2001) argued that, from a paleontological perspective, modern 'sea serpents' are more likely to be related to marine mammals than to fossil marine reptiles. Woodley, Naish, and Shanahan (2008) discussed the plausibility of unknown species of pinnipeds, especially as promoted by cryptozoology authors. Paxton (1998) examined description dates for large open water marine animals and predicted that forthcoming new species would likely be cetaceans (several have been described since that paper). Paxton, Knatterud, and Hedley (2005) noted that male whales in a state of arousal almost certainly have been misidentified as whales being attacked by sea serpents. Several additional papers (Paxton 2009; Paxton and Shine 2016; Paxton and Naish 2019) have evaluated anecdotal data regarding sea serpent reports.

This a preliminary survey. I've weeded out some reports that lack details, or with details that suggest newspaper shenanigans. There's at least one major newspaper database I haven't gone through yet, and several smaller papers that are online but not yet text-searchable. Still, as you will see, there are quite a few reports here.

I'm not a fan of rampant speculation about the identities of mystery animals, as folkloric baggage often masks the biological culprits. Scientific description requires a threshold of evidentiary support (preferably physical evidence). There are very few 'sea serpent' field investigators in North America, but the potential for acquiring evidence is still there. Beached marine animals have been commonly reported by the public for over a century, and are often examined by professional marine biologists. We know enough about taphonomy of common marine life (sharks, whales, etc.) to recognize certain definitive characteristics even in photos. As technology in marine exploration develops (remotely operated underwater vehicles), there may be other opportunities for *in situ* observation and videography.

Scientists Say Monster Not Caddy



—Photo by PHOTIC GALLERY, PORT ALBERTA
Victorians, who have treasured their Caddy stories for years, could relax again today, following Dr. G. Clifford Carl's studied "guess" that the remains now being inspected at Alberni, and whose picture is above, is really a basking shark. Reports out of Alberni Saturday listed that the 45-foot remains of a sea creature was Victoria's famous sea serpent *Callopsaurus*, otherwise known as "Caddy."



—Photo by A. HAZEN
First reports had it that the sea animal in the above picture found some time ago at Qualicum Beach was also Caddy, but it turned out to be a basking shark.

Two alleged sea serpent carcasses turned out to be basking sharks.
(Victoria, B.C., *Times Colonist*, Dec. 8, 1947)



THE STRANGE MONSTER, CAPTURED NEAR LUNA, A LEG OF THE PROVINCE OF VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON THE PACIFIC COAST, AND BRINGING WITH IT A WHOLE LOT OF FISHES, AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS, WHICH IT HAD CAPTURED IN THE COURSE OF ITS TRAVEL. THE MONSTER WAS CAPTURED BY ALBERT AND OTHERS, WHO WERE AT THE PLACE, AND BRINGING WITH IT A WHOLE LOT OF FISHES, AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS, WHICH IT HAD CAPTURED IN THE COURSE OF ITS TRAVEL.

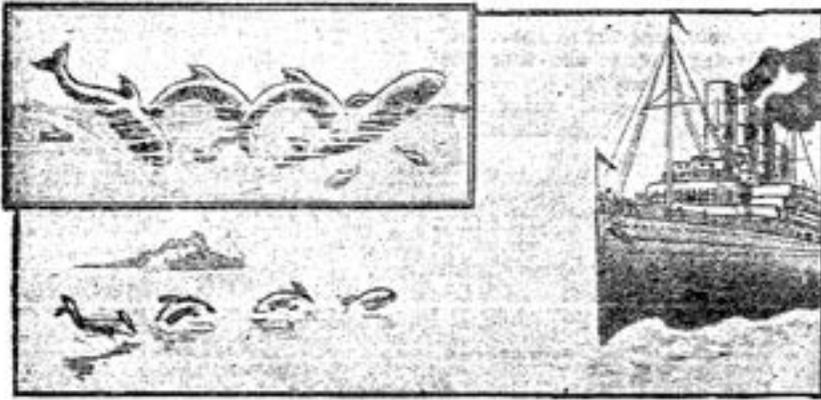
AFFIDAVIT OF THE MEN WHO CAPTURED THE MONSTER.

VANCOUVER, B. C., September 18, 1899. These are the facts as to the capture of the sea serpent, wolf fish, or whatever it may be, that was the subject of the above report. While fishing for cod in the Skeena river, a fisherman named Albert, of the boat "Vancouver, B. C., an animal's head suddenly appeared above the water with a snake-like body trailing after it. The strange monster was following a cod about to be landed into the boat. Fearing that the cod would be spoiled by the monster, one of us, an old fisherman known throughout British Columbia as the "White Fisherman," called the monster's attention to the fish, two feet from the boat, and after a struggle landed him in the net, which happened to be a very large one. There the monster made a desperate fight for liberty. The strange marine animal, who finally escaped by a blow from the net's jib, but not before it had scratched the public in passing between the net's mesh, which rendered it useless. The strange creature was taken quickly to land and placed in a tank of salt water to keep it alive. From Vancouver we went to Luna Bay, and from Luna Bay to Vancouver, where we exhibited him for four days alive, when he died from his wounds. Fifty thousand people have seen the monster, and not any of them have ventured to state what appears to be your words, your animal and your fish, or attempt to identify it.

Sworn before me this 18th day of September, 1899.
 (Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, Notary Public.
 Witness: W. E. GORDON, S. H. FORBES.

Wolf eels were very commonly mistaken as 'sea serpents' by fishermen when caught on the West Coast. (San Francisco, CA, *Examiner*, September 24, 1899)

Solving the Sea Serpent Mystery



Courtesy of Science and Education.
 The Lower Left Part of the Illustration Shows an Optical Illusion Which Seems to Be a Sea Serpent When Viewed from the Deck of a Ship. The Supposed Sea Serpent Was Merely the Movement of a Number of Young Whales Which Propelled Themselves Through the Water, As Shown in Upper Left Hand Corner.

Any number of explanations, some more plausible than others, have been made over the years regarding possible misidentifications. (1928)



SEA SERPENT—The wall-eyed "sea serpent" caught by a Port Angeles, Wash., fisherman has local residents as well as fish connoisseurs stamped as to its breed. The six-foot, two-inch creature has an aluminum-like coat which is easily rubbed off and two rows of bony frontal ridges. Some believe the monster to be the same "sea serpent" which surfaced in Seattle's Lake Washington for two weeks this spring.



SEA SERPENT—Denton Hyder, (left) skipper of the San Pedro based "Sport Fisher" shows his haul covered with "aluminum colored pigment" that rubbed off of the "sea serpent" or "oar fish" which John E. Fitch (right), Terminal Island aquatic biologist of the bureau of marine fisheries identified as a rare "Lopholaimus Cepedianus". The unusual fish was caught in a school of albacore six miles off Catalina Island by C.E. Steller of Ventura.

While often blamed for sea serpent sightings, oarfish are unlikely to have much relevance outside of caught or beached specimens. (La Grande, OR, *Observer*, 1947; San Pedro, CA, *News Pilot*, 1948)

Accounts are generally chronological by state or province, south to north. I'm not including reports of beached 'sea monsters' that were later identified as known species, like 1941's 'Sarah the Sea Hag', which biologists determined was a shark, or the 1947 Cuvier's beaked whale that beached in California. For another example, see the 1934 Henry Island remains from the Prince Rupert Archives (<https://princerupertarchives.ca/search/detail-bare.php?ID=2893>).

BAJA

“Captain the Hon. George Hope states that when in H.M.S. *Fly*, in the gulf of California, the sea being perfectly calm and transparent, he saw at the bottom a large marine animal, with the head and general figure of the alligator, except that the neck was much longer, and that instead of legs the creature had four large flappers, somewhat like those of turtles, the anterior pair being larger than the posterior: the creature was distinctly visible, and all its movements could be observed with ease: it appeared to be pursuing its prey at the bottom of the sea: its movements were somewhat serpentine, and an appearance of annulations, or ring-like divisions of the body, was distinctly perceptible. Captain Hope made this relation in company, and as a matter of conversation: when I heard it from the gentleman to whom it was narrated, I enquired whether Captain Hope was acquainted with those remarkable fossil animals, Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri, the supposed forms of which so nearly correspond with what he describes as having seen alive, and I cannot find that he had heard of them; the alligator being the only animal he mentioned as bearing a partial similarity to the creature in question.—Edward Newman.” (Newman 1849)

CALIFORNIA

ANOTHER SEA SERPENT

Los Angeles, California, *Herald*, June 1, 1876

. . . Whether any sea serpents were ever before this time reported on this coast we cannot say, but we certainly have a well authenticated sea serpent to report at last.

The wonderful monster was seen from the deck of the steamer *Los Angeles* on her last trip down, and the story is vouched for by three responsible men. However we will not anticipate, but let one of them tell the story:

Editor *Republican*:—Somewhere between Santa Cruz and Monterey Light as we steamed (or rather rolled) along in the steamer *Los Angeles*, a very remarkable sight was presented which, to say the least, has certainly strengthened my heretofore weak faith in the stories I have read of 'sea serpents.' W. H. Mills, W. B. Boyden and myself were together on the after part of the steamer when a monster thrust its head some twenty feet out of the water several times. The head was about two feet in diameter at the point where it intersected the water and was shaped like an eel, without having any fins that we could see. When first observed it was about 800 feet from the vessel and appeared to raise out of the water for purposes of observation. It seemed to be looking at the steamer and afterwards sighted a whale in the immediate vicinity, with which it soon engaged in deadly combat. In this fight the whale evidently got worsted and was either killed outright or left the sea monster the victor, as the serpent raised its head out of the water to the height of at least 40 feet, perhaps to discover a foe more worthy of its steel. Mr. Boyden and Mr. Mills both witnessed the facts I have related and the incident was the subject of conversation with them until they left the boat at Santa Barbara. Mr. W. B. Boyden is a great traveller having been at sea twelve years and Mr. W. H. Mills is a capitalist. Both will testify to the truth of the above statement. Yours, H. J. Stevenson. Los Angeles, May 31st, 1876.

Los Angeles, California, *Herald*, August 3, 1897

It is a great risk, even to the reputation of a newspaper reporter, to tell it, but *The Herald* must have all the news—so here goes. Yesterday Harry Eubanks, C. D. Gilson and P. S. Hunsaker were out in the bay in a row boat

fishing. Suddenly Mr. Eubanks was startled at seeing what he thinks was a sea serpent floating along beside the boat, apparently asleep. He called the attention of the others to the animal, which by that time roused up and swam, though not until all had seen it. They, each and all, severally and collectively, declare that there was not one morsel of or drop of anything eatable or drinkable aboard that boat. Mr. Eubanks is an old sailor and has never believed in sea serpents heretofore, but he is positively convinced if that thing was not a sea serpent it was a sea something that he never saw nor heard tell of before. The creature was about twenty-five feet long, gray in color, with an immense head that sloped to a hog-shaped snout. The body was covered with short gray hairs and was from three to four feet through. The party regret very much that they had nothing aboard with which to capture the animal, in which case it would not be necessary for them to go to Klondyke to find gold.

SEA-SERPENT YARN FROM CALIFORNIA

Vancouver, B.C., *Province*, February 19, 1909

Long Beach, Cal., Feb. 19.—Five men who went fishing yesterday on the launch Reta assert they had an encounter with a sea-serpent at the Grouper banks, 18 miles off shore. Guy Griffith and James Harvey were of the party.

“The monster was about 40 feet long,” said Griffith, “and about 15 feet back from the head it had a big dorsal fin. The head was as big as a barrel and brown, with eyes as big as my fist, and it moved from side to side. The tail was like that of a porpoise. We first sighted the thing 100 feet away.

“The head was then out of water and I started to shoot at it, but feared it might become angry and attack us, so I told one of the boys to start the engine and we glided away, but the monster came after us. It gave the engine all she could do to get away from the creature.”

SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND'S SEA MONSTER HUNTED

Los Angeles, California, *Times*, June 4, 1956

. . . To fishermen and week-end mariners, the so-called Sea Serpent of San Clemente Island is a permanent dweller of the briny fathoms around the channel island, and his (we're taking this for granted) existence goes back to 1919 when a writer by the name of Ralph Bandini mentioned him in a book called "Tight Lines."

Bandini then presented a description of the serpent that tended to coincide in recent years with that given by other witnesses.

"A great columnar neck and head, I guess that is what it was, lifting a good 10 feet. It must have been five or six feet thick. Something that appeared to be a kind of mane of coarse hair, almost like fine seaweed (what else?), hung dankly. But the eyes—those were what held me! Huge, seemingly bulging, round—at least a foot in diameter," Bandini wrote unabashedly. . . .

Bandini (1934) gave a more expansive description:

"Quite probably some of the reported sea serpents—I do not mean those which I have specifically mentioned—are inventions pure and simple. Others may have been illusions. After all, a flight of low-flying birds along the horizon, bits of floating stuff (it's queer the shapes that flotsam on the surface sometimes takes), might, in poor light, take on the semblance of an undulating sea serpent. However, one would not go far amiss to accept that queer creatures have been seen upon the face of the sea.

"Now most of the above mentioned beasties, with the possible exception of the one near Acapulco, have been given wide publicity. However, there is still another, about which little or nothing has been told or written. This is that huge Thing sometimes called the 'San Clemente Monster'—and monster it truly is if ever there was one! I have seen it—and I know whereof I speak.

"San Clemente Island is a lonely, wind-swept bit of rock and sand lying some fifty miles south of Los Angeles Harbor. It is little frequented except by fishermen. Its waters are lonely, too. Days can go by when one will never see a boat. The Thing, itself, appears to

like this remote bit of the ocean—that windy channel between San Clemente and Santa Catalina.

“Just why so little has been said about so strange a resident of so publicity-minded a community as Southern California it is hard to say. Certainly it has been seen by enough persons—some twenty-five or thirty that I know of and many of whom bear reputations for veracity beyond reproach. Furthermore, it has been seen periodically over the last fifteen or twenty years. Perhaps this paucity of detail is mainly due to the fact that the Thing is so monstrous, so utterly incredible, so impossible, that any sane man shuns the incredulity with which his tale is inevitably received. In fact, I know this to be true. Some of my intimate friends have seen it. They know that I have seen it. Yet, despite friendship, despite this mutual knowledge of one another’s experience, I find most of them reluctant to talk, even to me. One interesting phase of the matter is this. Whenever I have been able to persuade one of these friends to do so, we have independently drawn sketches of what we saw. Barring differences in artistic skill these drawings show one and the same thing!

“About fifteen or twenty years ago rumors began to be current around Avalon that there was something queer out in the Clemente Channel. There were guarded hints of some huge, unnameable Thing lifting up out of the sea. These rumors were shadowy, difficult to run down. No one credited with having seen the Thing would admit it. Still the rumors persisted. Perhaps the very evasiveness encountered was tantamount to admission.

“I was out in the Southern California channels a lot during those days, fishing for tuna and swordfish. Naturally I heard about the Thing. Being by nature curious. I proceeded to ask questions—but learned nothing. My boatman, Percy Neale, an old timer at Avalon, was said to have seen it. I asked him. Percy looked out to sea—made some irrelevant remark—then, when pressed, muttered something about ‘eyes as big as dinner plates’ and changed the subject.

“Then came my first view of the Thing!

“We were fishing for tuna about ten miles off Catalina in the Clemente Channel. It was a windy afternoon—the channel a welter of breaking seas. Suddenly Percy let out a yell.

“‘Look! Look! Over there!’

“He pointed to seaward. I saw it! About a mile away something huge, wet and glistening, was lifting up out of sea! Higher and higher

it raised until I felt my skin crawl. To this very day I vividly remember that queer, empty feeling in the pit of my stomach.

“Why should I be scared! Just picture it for yourselves. A tumbled, broken sea, flecked with white, and stretching away to the horizon’s edge. Catalina looming through the golden haze of afternoon. San Clemente a vague shadow far to southward. Sea birds wheeling, hovering, darting. That monstrous Thing rising up out of the sea!

“I don’t know how long he stayed up. Perhaps a minute—perhaps less. Fascinated, spellbound, we watched him. Then, before our very eyes, majestically, slowly, he sank back into the depths from whence he had come.

There was a scarcity of small talk aboard that ship from then on. Tuna fishing seemed to have lost a lot of its charm. Swiftly developed a multitude of perfectly good and sufficient reasons why we should forget further fishing for that day and go home early—leaving that particular bit of the world to whatever might care to claim it.

“As we slipped up the coast toward Avalon through the quiet waters of the lee side—as we began to encounter other boats—to meet again man and his handiworks, the horror of what we had seen seemed to lessen and our tongues were loosed. We talked grandly about how we would go ashore and spread the wonder of what we had seen to the world at large—possibly make our everlasting fortunes out of it. But we did no such thing! Somehow or another, face to face with the orderliness of Avalon town, with the smug scepticism of the Tuna Club, we found our lips sealed. Words would not come. Instead we slunk furtively to the nearest bar and tossed down two stiff drinks.

“Two or three years passed. Others saw the Thing. Some, braver than their fellows, talked. Little by little the earlier discoverers came out of their shells and talked, too. All accounts from those who had been really close to the Thing agreed upon three fundamentals: that it was enormous; that it possessed huge and horrible eyes; that it was something absolutely unknown to man. A composite description of the Thing was forwarded to the late Dr. David Starr Jordan of Stanford University. He replied by suggesting it probably was a sea elephant! Our descriptive powers must have been woefully weak. It was no more a sea elephant than I am. I have seen them, many of them—roaming around the sea—in their native rookery at Guadalupe Island. Sea elephants look like seals except that they are larger and have a

prolonged, hooked upper nostril. This Thing was not a sea elephant nor did it remotely resemble one.

“Then came my second and only close-up view of the Thing!

“It was in September, 1920. I was fishing for marlin swordfish at San Clemente with the late Smith Warren. We were staying at Mosquito Harbor where the fish camp used to be. It was early in the morning—about 8:00 o’clock. We had worked close in shore the three miles from the camp down to the East End. We had then turned back up the coast and worked along about a mile and a half to two miles off shore. The sea was glassy with just a little roll coming down the island. Overhead it was overcast—one of California’s summer fogs. Objects on the surface showed black in that light. The brown slopes swept up abruptly to almost meet the gray mist. We passed Mosquito and the white tents of the camp and were nearly abreast of White Rock. Smithy was down in the cockpit doing something or another. I was perched on top of the cabin looking for fish. My bait trolled along astern, the rod tied to the fishing chair.

“Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I caught a glimpse of something huge lifting up out of the sea. Turning swiftly I was face to face with something I had never seen before—will probably never see again!

“Here it is—just as I saw it. Take it or leave it.

“A great barrel shaped Thing, tapering toward the top and surmounted by a reptilian head strangely resembling those of the huge, prehistoric creatures whose reproductions stand in various museums. It lifted what must have been a good twenty feet. Widely spaced in the head were two eyes—eyes such as were never conceived of even in the wildest nightmare! Immense, at least a full foot in diameter, round, slightly bulging, and as dead looking as though they had seen all the death the world has suffered since its birth! No wonder those who had seen it close by could speak of little else but the eyes!

“This was the picture that came into the lenses of my seven power binoculars the moment I clapped them on to the Thing—knowing what I was looking at. At the same time I yelled to Smithy to head for it.

“Through the glasses the head, those awful eyes, that portion of the body showing—and it must have been at least six feet thick, perhaps more, appeared scarcely a hundred feet away. It was covered

with what looked like stiff, coarse hair, almost bristles. Strangely enough, considering the light, I gained a distinct impression of a reddish tinge. Remember that.

“The bulk of the Thing simply cannot be told. To this day I don’t believe that I saw anything but the head and a section of the neck—if it had a neck. What was below the surface only God knows. But listen to this. You will recollect that I mentioned a little roll coming down the island? The Thing did not rise and fall in that roll as even a whale would. The waves beat against it and broke.

“As we drew nearer, the great head which had been slowly turning, stopped. The huge, dead eyes fixed themselves upon us! Even today, after fourteen years, I can still see them—yes—feel them. For seconds—it seemed like hours—they stared at us incuriously, dull and lifeless. Then, without convulsion of any sort, it started to sink, slowly, majestically—and disappeared beneath the surface. There was no swirl, no whirlpool, no fuss, no nothing. The waters closed over it and it was gone.

“With its disappearance I think we breathed for the first time. I looked at Smithy—Smithy looked at me.

“‘J—!’ I croaked.

“He threw out the clutch and we lay to—staring at the empty sea. I was wringing wet and my knees shook. Smithy, normally a voluble man, was speechless. Mechanically he stooped down and picked up a little piece of wire leader from the cockpit floor, tossing it overboard. Around us was the same gray sea, the same sea birds, the same lonely, brown-sloped island. Overhead was the same gray fog. But everything was different. All the friendliness had gone. We, two frail humans, had looked into the eyes of the Past—and looking was not good.

“Only a week later I was talking to N. B. Schofield, head of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the California Division of Fish and Game. Schofield is an ichthyologist of considerable reputation and a pupil of the late Dr. David Starr Jordan. He suggested that I was said to have seen a strange monster and asked me about it. After I had described the Thing he was silent for a minute or two then went on to say that fishermen out of Monterey, California, swore that they had been seeing a similar creature only recently.

“So frightened were some of them at what they had seen that they refused for days to go to sea. I drew a sketch of the Thing which

Schofield pocketed to show to them. I haven't heard whether or not they identified it as one and the same thing. Mind you, Schofield in no wise accepted my story or theirs.

"From my own experience and from those of others I will say unequivocally that the Thing is very shy.

"I was never closer to the Thing than three hundred yards—perhaps more. I know two men who have been closer than that but there is no material variance in their stories and mine other than one of them thinks he saw a mouth with teeth. I am quite sure that I did not.

"As to how large the Thing is—your guess is as good as mine. I have a feeling, probably a sort of sixth sense, which tells me that I saw only a small portion of the beast—that beneath the surface was a body greater than that of any known creature, a whale included. However, that is nothing more than an unprovable hunch. I do not know whether it was serpentine in form or not. I again have a feeling that it was not. If it was—then we had better revise our views on serpents.

"I have told all I know about the Thing. Now, I will lay all my cards face up upon the table. Smith Warren is dead; his lips are sealed. Neale is still living but was never as close to the creature as were we. True, there are a number from out of the ranks of those twenty-five or thirty who have seen the Thing who are still alive. Some of them might come forward in defense of my story—but I shall not ask them to.

"I shall never ask any man to put his neck into a noose of ridicule on my behalf. There is one man who has been closer to the Thing than any of us—but he refuses point blank to talk, even to me.

"So—there you have it. Just as I wrote earlier—take it or leave it. It is all one to me. Smile if you want to—laugh if you want to. I have taken it before—I can take it again. But, when you laugh, if you do—just remember those old immortal lines—'There are stranger things,' etc. Also, remember one other thing. You have not been out alone upon the sea and seen a monstrous Thing lift up out of the depths and close beside you—you have not felt the baleful stare of those awful eyes—you have not sensed the cold breath of ages past upon you. I have—and that's that. Adios."

Buffum (1976a) noted the account of Capt. George C. Farnsworth from *History of the Tuna Club*:

“On the way to Clemente one day (ca. 1920) with Mr. Papparinsky, I saw what looked like a boat with a sail on it. It was calm, though. I set out to see what it was; thought maybe it was someone broken down. It was possibly three miles away.

“We started out in its general direction; covered probably half the distance when it disappeared. We could see nothing, no sail, no boat; nothing at all. Well, we came to Glory Hole . . . There ahead of us was the same thing; it looked like a boat with the sail up. I wondered how it could have got there ahead of us without our seeing it.

“We started towards it, but again, half way there, it vanished. Whatever it was stood 15 to 20 feet out of the water . . . The next time, I saw it off the east end of Catalina. I seized the glasses and had a perfect view because we were running right towards it.

“Its eyes were 12 inches in diameter, not set on the side like an ordinary fish, but more central. It had a big mane of hair, about two feet long. We were within a hundred feet of it before it went down.

“I saw it afterwards several times, but never close like that. Lots of people said it was a sea elephant. Well, I know a sea elephant as far as I can see it. This was no sea elephant . . . Nobody will believe it, unless they see it themselves. But I did see it.’

“One of the Tuna Club’s most famous members, George C. Thomas III, a sober, hard-fishing gentleman of the old school not given to exaggerations, also saw the monster. It was around 1924 or 1925, he reports. We were ‘going to San Clemente—George Farnsworth and I—on the old Fairplay.’

“He says they took a course to the east end of Clemente. The sea was calm and glassy. When they were about eight miles off the coast of Clemente, they saw a big black form, like the sail of a Japanese albacore boat.

“I said to George, “What the hell’s that?” He said: “The Clemente Monster.” We went towards it. We got to within three-quarters of a mile. Then it went down. . . .”

J. A. Coxe told his story to Ralph Bandini (1936):

“Then there was that sea monster that you and I and a lot of people have seen. I want to say that it is the damndest Thing that man ever saw or ever dreamed of. I have seen it three or four times, but the best view was with Farnsworth when we were hove to, eating lunch. All of a sudden, he said, very quietly,

“Look off there to starboard!”

“When I did—I pretty near fell overboard! A thing was sticking up out of the water a good ten feet! It had a reptile like head—must have been four or five feet thick—was covered with coarse, reddish bristles—and had eyes as big as dinner plates! I’m not exaggerating a bit. It’s head kept turning back and forth—then it stopped turning and seemed to be looking at us. For a minute or two it stared, then, without any commotion whatever, sank. Pretty soon it popped up again in a different place and looked us over and sank. It did this three or four times. I was watching it through the glasses—it couldn’t have been more than a quarter of a mile away—and have a clear recollection of what the Thing was like. One thing, I didn’t see any mouth. I had the feeling that the head was bent toward us and that if there was a mouth it was underneath and out of sight. But the eyes were what struck me—and the same thing struck everybody who has reported seeing it. They were like no eyes that we have ever seen. Round, bulging, dead looking, they gave one the horrors! Everybody who has seen the Thing describe it the same way—so they must have seen the same creature. We have read a lot about sea serpents and monsters during the last few years—but there’s never been one reported that’s similar to this brute. In the first place, neither I nor anybody else, saw anything that looked serpentine. This Thing was big—so big that it did not rise and fall in the waves—they broke against it!

“I think I saw it once in the water, under my boat. I was coming out of Smugglers’ Cove at San Clemente Island, when I happened to look over the side and caught a glimpse of a huge, reddish bulk lunging through the water, about thirty feet down. I didn’t see either head or tail, or any clear view of its shape. Just a huge thing going like hell!

“What it was, or is, God only knows! I had to laugh when the late Dr. David Starr Jordan called it a sea elephant. I’ve seen plenty of them—have been out to their rookery on Guadalupe Island, there’s only one other one in the world. If that was a sea elephant—then I’m a Martian!

“As far as I’m concerned, I am perfectly willing to accept it that there are strange, unknown monsters in the sea. I don’t know why there shouldn’t be. We have them on land. But here we can see them and study them, while there, the sea is a big place, and has plenty of room in which to hide out. A Thing like the one I’ve been telling of

doesn't have to go to great depths. He could swim around forty or fifty feet down, and come up at intervals to breathe, if he has to breathe—I didn't see anything on this one that looked like gills—and it would be just luck if anybody were around when he did it. The Thing is timid—there's no doubt about that—and the chances are against his surfacing when there's a boat around—and you can hear a propeller a long ways under water. If the ocean was suddenly drained off, I'm betting money we would see things that would upset every theory we've formed!"

SEA SERPENT APPEARS NEAR SANTA BARBARA

Cordova, Alaska, *Daily Times*, April 7, 1922

Santa Barbara, Cal., April 7.—A huge sea monster that appeared to be 70 feet in length was sighted off the coast ten miles north of Santa Barbara, if members of an outgoing party are to be believed. The monster was described by the party as "the ugliest creature ever seen." After playing about the surface for several minutes it dived and was not seen again, they say.

Local seamen stated that the serpent might be the same one that recently appeared off the Santa Monica coast, and what was thought to be a huge snake that had escaped from one of the concessions when part of the Ocean Park pier slipped into the ocean.

Buffum (1976b) discussed Howard Wilson's ~1927 sighting of the San Clemente sea monster. A few years after this sighting, Wilson went on to discover the 'Laguna Skull'.

Wilson and his mother "both saw the monster cruising along about 400 yards off the coast of Laguna Beach. It was moving in a southerly direction. They watched it for 15 minutes, enthralled, from the bluffs above Aliso Beach where they lived.

"He was moving along smoothly, making no wake at all.' . . .

"It seems he was brownish, more like the color of a wet seal. He had a camel-like head and neck. At any rate, that's the way Wilson thought of him when he was young. When he grew older, he compared him more to a dinosaur.

"He had large eyes, like dinner plates, and his neck extended some 10 feet above the surface of the sea.

“He looked real friendly. He looked at us and we looked at him. It was a clear, cold day and his details showed up clearly. There was no mistaking him for something else.” . . .

Fields (1933) noted that according to angler/author J. Charles Davis, the consensus at that time was that the creature was “huge in size and has a great head covered with reddish, sorrel-like hair. It has enormous eyes that are like two plates. It has been scrutinized through powerful binoculars and all who have seen it stress its great size, big rolling eyes and red hair. It has a great bull neck that seems to rise right out of the body, high above the water and it rises and sinks mysteriously without sound or warning.

“The late David Starr Jordan was sent a description and crude sketch for identification and labeled it a sea elephant. Those who have seen it, laugh. Whatever it may be, it is NOT a sea elephant.”

Lisa Quinn kindly sent me a copy of her father’s description of the San Clemente sea monster from his memoirs. Meredith Quinn (1907-2008) saw it sometime between the late 1920s and 1941.

“I often crewed for Charlie Page, skipper and owner of *The Westward*. Charlie had a marvelous sense of humor. His wife, Murietta, had been an opera singer. Both were the jolliest! Anything you wanted to do on their boat was fine. Most owners give you a list of what you can’t do, but they’d tell us, ‘If there’s a fire, let it burn because we’ve got plenty of insurance!’

“The others who formed our crew were Norman Marsh of Patrick and Marsh Orchestras, Maurice Covington, an attorney, and Ashton Castle, manager of the Jonathon Club. Charlie was happy to have a crew he didn’t have to pay for, and we were happy to get in a lot of sailing at no cost. This suddenly ended with World War II, but still brings back a lot of very happy memories. I couldn’t have asked for a better, classier group of people to spend time with!

“I was the jib-tender. Our boat had a weather genoa jib, which was a large, triangular, lightweight canvas sail with no boom. This was used in light weather, and a conventional jib with a boom was used in heavier weather, so much of the time the jibs had to be changed.

“We raced against actors like Humphrey Bogart and Errol Flynn. Errol Flynn bet us a case of beer that he’d beat us in a race around

Catalina. He lost the race, and still hasn't paid off the case of beer! Weekends at the Isthmus were classics. Laurel Hardy's wife, Victor McLaughlin, Lupe Vélez, and other colorful characters comprised Saturday night at the hut on the beach. One time Lupe got into a fight with the wife of Stan Hardy, of Laurel and Hardy.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance being accepted as part of the crew, and Charlie was the greatest. He would tell us, 'My boat is your boat—anything you want. But don't bring potato chips.' They would make grease spots on deck. Most boat owners, by contrast, are very finicky guys and don't let you forget that it's their boat. Castle would bring sandwiches from the Jonathon Club. We'd split the groceries, and it would come to \$4-\$5 each.

"Once we were in an overnight sailing race around Catalina Island. We were not allowed to use the motor. The race started at San Pedro on Saturday noon. The wind had died as we rounded the back side of Catalina Island. The rest of the night we were almost becalmed. As we were about to round the tip of the island toward San Clemente, we picked up a breeze, and with all the sails filled, we set a course for the San Pedro lighthouse. We were out a couple miles from the side of Catalina nearest San Clemente. I was at the helm about half-asleep since none of us had had any sleep. Suddenly I thought I saw a big rock. I called down to one of the guys below, 'Hey, is there supposed to be a rock out there?'

"He said, 'No, there isn't any charted.' He knew without checking.

"I said, 'Oh, it doesn't look like a rock.'

"I maneuvered the boat over there. Then, as I got a couple hundred feet away, I saw a big, round eye, 6-9 inches in diameter. Then I saw what looked like hair—straight strands that were ruffled by the breeze. The eye kept looking right at us. The hide was dark-colored, the type you might find on a walrus, wrinkles with crevasses, a very old look. As we got near, the body started sinking slowly down until it was out of sight. I always felt he had a body like a giant squid, but no one, as far as I know, has seen any part of its body.

"When we returned to the mainland and described what we'd seen to some of the old-time fishermen, they told us this creature was known as the San Clemente Sea Monster, and that it had been sighted from time to time through the years.

"Many years later, Ro and I were guests of Harold Donaldson on a yacht, *The Blue Dolphin*, going to Catalina Island. The skipper of

The Blue Dolphin had been a commercial fisherman and had seen this same creature and heard about him from other fishermen, too.”

In the 1930s, a finback whale harpooned in the waters near the Catalina Islands was embalmed and exhibited for several years in a specially-designed railroad car that traveled throughout the country.



San Clemente whale as it looked in the waters of the Pacific before being embalmed for a trans-continental tour.

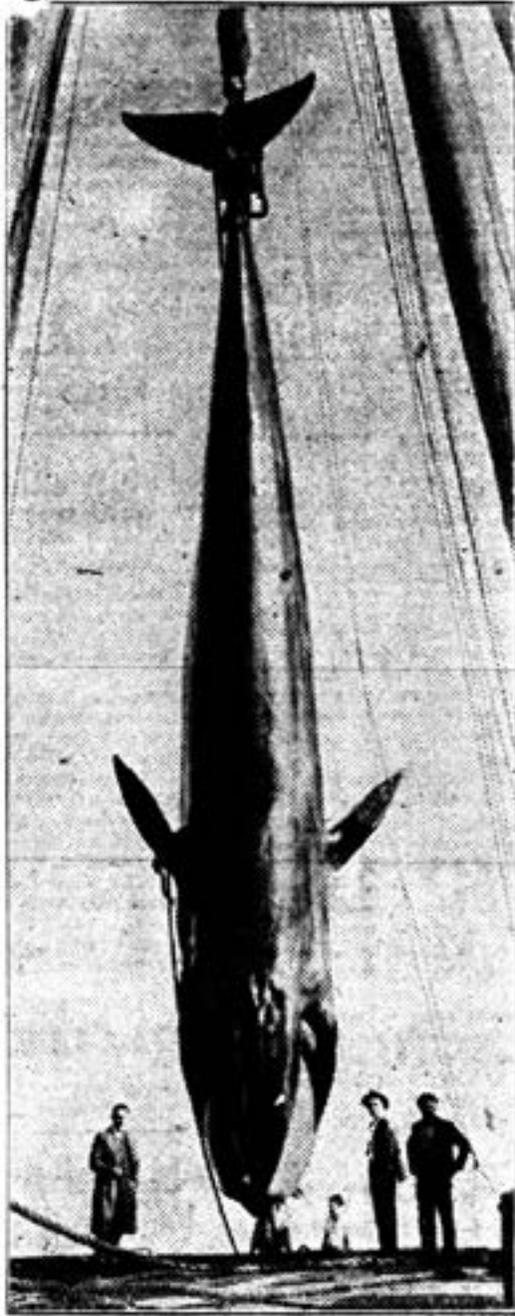
SEA MONSTER SEEN IN BODEGA BAY

Petaluma, California, *Argus Courier*, March 6, 1934

“An excited fisherman, resident of San Francisco, fishing from the sandspit, Sunday afternoon with a companion, reported to Louis Asman, of Bay, that he saw a ‘long, mottled animal’ of some sort, swimming near the beach.

“He at first thought it to be a seal, which are seen in large numbers off the sand spit, and, at various other parts of the coast, but as the creature rose again, he saw it was much larger than any seal he had ever seen.

“It had a long neck, and once, as it rose on a swell, he saw it was equipped with a pointed fin, which no seal has, and a long seal-like neck, only longer, terminating in an ungainly head ‘as large as that of a horse.’ It appeared to have a long ‘snaky’ tail, he said.” . . .



Finback whale exhibited as a 'sea monster'
Latrobe, PA, *Bulletin*, 1933

SEA SERPENTS DRIFT TO SOUTH

Santa Rosa, California, *Press Democrat*, March 6, 1934
. . . “We were fishing off the sandspit,’ so the story goes, ‘when we first saw a large object, which we at first thought was a seal.

“But, rising clear out of the water, so that there could be no mistake on our part, came a large head, bigger than a horse’s head.’ Here one of the pair interrupted to say that to him it looked more like a camel’s head.

“Then we saw the neck, long, very long and mottled. Once, as it rose on a swell we saw that it had a pointed fin, and a large, snaky tail. He was 20 feet long.

“We looked on in amazement as the monster slipped along over a wave or two, and then finally dived under water.” . . .

OBSERVERS OF SEA MONSTER DIFFER AS TO DESCRIPTIONS

Santa Rosa, California, *Republican*, March 6, 1934
“Unconfirmed reports of several more people who saw the weird denizen of the deep tossing about on the crest of waves, or lying sluggishly in lagoons, and in a few cases basking on the sands, were received today.” . . .

BODEGA BAY HUNTERS FAIL TO FIND MONSTER

Santa Rosa, California, *Republican*, March 12, 1934
“Hunt for Sonoma county’s mysterious ‘sea monster,’ nicknamed ‘Minnie O’Malley,’ by some of those claiming to have seen the huge serpent-like creature, proved fruitless yesterday.

“Louis Asman’s boat was chartered for an ocean trip to search for the ‘critter’ by two youths who saw it sunning itself on a rock near Wrights beach, a week ago. However, more or less to the joy of Asman, they did not find ‘Minnie.’ . . .”

NEW SEA SERPENT SIGHTED AT MOUTH OF GUALALA RIVER

Santa Rosa, California, *Republican*, March 14, 1934
Another sea serpent—one with an armor-plate hide that

defies bullets from a high-powered rifle—has been sighted off the coast near the mouth of the Gualala.

The story of the monster was brought to Santa Rosa yesterday by George Ciapusci, operator of the Gualala hotel, who is passing several days as a guest of James Brucker, local Golden Glow beer distributor.

One of the most authentic accounts of the sea monsters that have been told so far was related by Ciapusci, known as the “mayor of Gualala.”

“We were standing on the beach, when we saw what looked like a huge log about 50 yards off the mouth of the river. Suddenly we saw that it was not a log, but something alive. A large head, it must have been three feet across, raised out of the water. The head didn’t look like that of a horse, or camel, as others have reported. It was round and resembled the head of a huge fish.

“My brother had a rifle with him and fired three times almost point blank at the serpent. We heard the sound when the shots hit, and saw the splashes as they bounced off into the water.

“The serpent, or whatever it was, remained in the water with its head up for a few minutes and then disappeared.

“Half a dozen persons were there and we all saw it. Two days later we heard a report that the monster had been seen again by fishermen, but I can’t vouch for this.”

SEA SERPENT FROM BODEGA IS SIGHTED IN SOUTHERN WATERS

Santa Rosa, *Republican*, April 6, 1934

. . . “Officers and crew of the coastwise freight steamer *C. Johnson III*, which docked in San Francisco before noon today, reported they had passed Minnie shortly after leaving San Diego last Sunday.

“‘Ay see her,’ swore Oscar Beckstrom, able-bodied seaman who was the first of the steamer’s crew to sight the serpent. ‘Ay bane on vatch on fo’c’sle head when py yingo, dot Minnie O’Malley she bane stick out of water right under mine nose!’

“Beckstrom hailed the bridge and reported what he’d sighted. Known as a sober and reliable seaman, Beckstrom’s warning met with such attention that most of the ship’s officers and crew lined the rails, as for fully a half-hour, the steamer raced Minnie. One of the crew swears that at one stage, when Minnie was apparently distancing the steamer, she flipped her five-fingers fin out of the water and put one of the fingers to her nose and held the rest of the flipper fanwise toward the steamer. Other observers, however, did not corroborate that tale.

“At any rate, Minnie weakened and was soon left behind, but still heading north, all the personnel of the *C. D. Johnson III* agree. On only one point did their description of the serpent vary from those reported from Bodega Bay and other nearby places where Minnie’s been sighted. Local observers all reported Minnie with a head ‘like a horse.’ The crew of the *C. D. Johnson III* insist she had a head like a crocodile. But a stay in Southern California is liable to turn anyone’s head—even Minnie’s—they admitted.”

SEA ELEPHANT SIGHTED OFF HARBOR BREAKWATER

San Pedro, California, *News Pilot*, April 21, 1934

By Frank Quinlen

Scores of recent reports from pleasure fishermen and sailors that they had seen a sea serpent distinctly in San Pedro bay off Point Fermin were believed explained today of a sea elephant off the harbor breakwater.

N. H. Edwards and A. P. Hite, operators of the second Cabrillo fishing barge out from Cabrillo Beach, and Ernest C. Peters, watchman on the barge, reported not only seeing the sea elephant close up to the barge for a long period but that they had captured alive a baby sea lion found in one of their bait tanks.

The sea serpent reports described a snaky animal about 20 feet long which would rear its head, show its teeth, expel its breath viciously at observers and undulate half submerged for a distance and then disappear, its fishlike tail waving farewell to astounded witnesses.

Since the sea [elephant] seen playing about the barge late yesterday has a gray hairless body, undulates half submerged in a way that would appear snakelike to persons at a distance, shows its teeth, and coughs a “raspberry” and waves a vertical fishtail at observers, the bargemen believe he is the “sea serpent.”

Intermittently for nearly half an hour, the elephant played about and close to the barge, the bargemen say. Often he would rear himself in the water, his long proboscis projecting trunklike down into the sea, and eye operations on the barge lugubriously. He is the second sea elephant to be seen in local waters in recent years. Usually this animal is seen only at Guadalupe Island off the Baja California coast, being extinct elsewhere. . . .

MIN O'MALLEY SHOWS UP AT CRISSY FIELD

San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, April 23, 1934
“Until yesterday morning, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Downie of 3360 Scott street thought all this stuff they were reading in the paper about Minnie O'Malley, the horse-headed sea-serpent, was just ‘a lot of fun.’

“But the Downie's have changed their mind. Because yesterday morning, hiking at Crissy Field, they both saw the sea-serpent . . . !

“Two hundred yards off shore she was, zipping along through the water.

“‘At least forty miles an hour, the serpent was cutting through the water!’ swore Downie, corroborated by Mrs. Downie. ‘It had a head like a horse all right, and it was all of 25 feet long. As near as we could make out, the creature had three distinct humps on its back.’

Downie said that he and his wife, following their custom, were taking an early-morning hike along the waterfront. Suddenly Mrs. Downie grabbed his arm and cried:

“‘Look!—out there . . . !’

“Downie looked and saw Minnie.” . . .

“Yesterday's appearance of Minnie is the fourth authenticated report of the beast since its first appearance in Bodega Bay, a month ago.”

MINNIE O'MALLEY (IN ONE REEL) GIVES BAY ANGLER MOVIE THRILL

San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, May 4, 1934

"Don't try to tell Benjamin Dake of 874 Fell street, that Minnie O'Malley, the peripatetic sea-serpent of Bodega Bay et cetera, is a myth.

"Benjamin knows better. Benjamin saw Minnie. In fact, Benjamin almost caught Minnie!! Oh, anyway, vice versa . . . He told about it yesterday.

"I am not speaking English very goot bot I am fishing,' he said, 'between Tiburon and California City about half past wan yesterday when I am feeling a tog on my reel. Aha, I think, I am having a big fish bot just then she's sticking her had op and I'm telling you I am beginning to shivering right away!'

"Whatever it was that stuck its head out of the waves at him, Dake said, was something he'd never seen in twenty years of bay fishing.

"Seals?—no, I am fishing for twanty years and I am knowing seals and this she is not any seals!' he snorted.

"The creature had a head like a hippopotamus, said Dake, only a bit smaller, and tapering to a slender neck and body, brown in color, and of length undeterminable because it was mostly under water. But it was, anyway, twenty feet long, he said.

"I am picking up a rock and throwing it and the head it goes down and then right away it is coming up again and I am shivering some more because I am afraid. I am alone and I am shivering, I tall you!'

"The creature, after looking reproachfully at Dake, finally made off toward California City and disappeared, said Dake."

'SEA SERPENT' SEEN BY TWO MORE MEN

Los Angeles, California, *Illustrated Daily News*, June 16, 1934

"Shelton, Wash., June 15.—(UP)—Maybe the Puget sound sea serpent is a trained seal. Hal Grant and George Woodruff today said they had sighted the 'monster,' stretching its neck eight feet out of water, flipping a large fish into the air and catching it.

“They said the ‘serpent’ was 20 feet long, reddish brown in color.”

MINNIE O’MALLEY VISITS BAY, HEADS FOR POINTS WET
San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, September 30, 1934
“Lieutenant Gene Roark, of the Berkeley Fire department, had quite a tete-a-tete with Minnie [yesterday]. It was around the Gilman street fill, where Berkeley’s airport will sit some day.

“‘It was no hoax,’ said Lieutenant Roark. ‘She—it—was about 300 yards out. First that horse-like head came out of the water. Then there was a rippling on the quiet water, and the body appeared—twenty feet of it!’

“Minnie looked around at length, according to the account, and dived again.

“‘When I last saw the monster it was headed for the Carquinez Bridge—and Antioch.’”

FAMOUS SEA SERPENT BELIEVED VISITOR HERE

Los Angeles, California, *Times*, October 7, 1934

. . . “At any rate, there’s a strange denizen in these parts. Capt. B. M. Green, bringing in his Isthmian freighter Birmingham City from San Francisco yesterday, is the discoverer and he is supported by fully half his crew.

“‘We were ten miles off Port San Luis Friday afternoon at 4.15 o’clock when the hideous thing reared its head,’ declared the skipper. ‘I never saw anything like it.

“‘It stuck its head up about three feet, and stuck with us till we got within fifty feet of it. It had a head about three and a half feet long, two and a half wide, with very conspicuous eyes.

“‘From one view it resembled a camel, from another a hippopotamus, but I believe it didn’t have any ears. I was so excited I forgot to notice. Its skin was dark gray and its head tapered to a flat nose.

“‘It slowly drew its head under the water and there was an immense commotion in the sea for yards around. Pictures? Gosh! We were all so awed we never thought of a camera.’”

CATALINA'S 'SERPENT' ONLY SEA ELEPHANT

Hollywood, California, *Citizen News*, Oct. 25, 1934

“San Pedro, Oct. 25 (AP)—Catalina Channel's ‘sea serpent’ was identified today as being none other than a bull sea-elephant weighing perhaps 10 tons.

“Several excursionists recently reported seeing a ‘sea serpent’ in the channel. However, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Diess, while on their power cruiser, reported today having sighted the sea elephant, which apparently was way off its course as its habitat is in the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands.”

In September 1934, a series of ‘python-like’ sightings in Contra Costa county's marshes, back roads, and irrigation ditches led to group hunts, one led by a big game hunter who worked for the Fleishacker Zoo. Reports continued into November when a crowd gathered around a coal mine witnessed the ‘capture’ of the cornered creature, and it was promptly carted off before anyone could get a good look. The Chamber of Commerce and a few leading citizens eventually confessed that the ‘serpent’ was rubber tubing and sawdust. They had manufactured it to counter actual reports, which were “a distinct blot on the name of the fair city,” causing residents to be terrified and businesses to suffer. “The only thing lacking was an explanation of what the first members of the ‘I Saw the Sea Serpent’ group really saw” (Anon 1934).

THREE-HEADED SEA SERPENT SWIMS IN SAN PEDRO CHANNEL

San Pedro, California, *News Pilot*, March 30, 1935

Captain L. B. Williams and seven of his fireboat crew watched what they believed to be a three-headed sea serpent. This is, certainly, an odd report, but likely has its roots in a pinniped moving in synchrony with two others (pups, perhaps). Note that the heads don't appear to have been seen out of the water, conjoined; they simply moved in unison through the water.

“It first appeared in the turning basin and was visible plainly for about ten minutes as it undulated slowly out the channel near the San Pedro shore as if looking for a berth. Apparently discouraged after viewing the dilapidated San Pedro frontage, it sank dismally and was seen no more.

“Captain Williams and his men watched the phenomenon with the naked eye and alternately through powerful binoculars. He, she, or it passed in front of the firemen at about 700 feet distance. They declared that many others on the San Pedro side had a closer view. The fire boathouse is on the Terminal Island side of the channel. . . .

“The thing was of a dark gray color, its body, two to three feet in diameter, undulating snakelike behind it. Although only about 15 feet of the body was seen, witnesses believed much more was invisible under water. All three heads bobbed in perfect coordination, indicating they all belonged to the same body. On each side of the triple head was a large pectoral fin or flipper. . . .

“Unlike Redondo’s red-haired, laughing sea serpent which the tri-headed San Pedro monster far eclipsed, this one exhibited three similar sleek, sea lion-like heads moving abreast about a foot apart. . . .

“That the monster was a three-headed-calf edition of a sea lion, Johnson, who frequently joins a swimming heard of the lions at play, indignantly denies. It was too big, he avers, and besides, sea lions go in for the Mae West type of figure exclusively.”

ON TRAIL AND STREAM, BY AVERY KIZER

Stockton, California, *Daily Evening Record*, January 13, 1940

One hundred feet of “sea serpent” (count ’em) are plying the San Joaquin River. And if you don’t believe it, you can ask three fellows who flashed a light on the critter and shot at it with a .22 caliber rifle.

Bob Cross and Jack Murphy, two College of the Pacific students, were fishing in the San Joaquin near the old Borden Highway bridge Thursday evening when they noticed a thrashing in the water. Soon an enormous head, “three feet in diameter and with ears like a horse,” was crossing the river toward them.

They ran to the cottage of the bridge tender, George Walker, and George’s brother Jim joined the expedition with flashlight and rifle. While three shots were being fired, “at least 100 feet of” the monster became visible. When last seen, the “serpent” was headed upstream.

FANCIED SEA SERPENT FINALLY IDENTIFIED AS ELEPHANT SEAL

Jackson, Alabama, *South Alabamian*, March 23, 1949
Monterey, Calif.—Bobo the sea serpent, which frightened many Monterey bay fishermen by surfacing beside small boats, has turned out to be an elephant seal.

Identification was made by attachés of Hopkins marine station, after the “serpent,” 17 ½ feet long, was washed up on the beach near Fort Ord. The cause of death was not apparent. . . .

SEA MONSTER MAY BE BATTERED SEA ELEPHANT

San Pedro, California, *News Pilot*, June 9, 1953

The San Clemente “sea monster” reported by Fisherman Sam Randazzo might be an old sea elephant whose head was disfigured in a bout with a ship’s propeller.

This is the latest opinion on the strange beast that rose out of the water two weeks ago about half a mile off San Clemente Island.

Several harbor fishermen—who prefer to remain anonymous—say they have occasionally seen a grand-daddy sea elephant with barnacles and sea weed hanging from its body near the island. It would poke its mangled head above the water for a look around but submerge before anyone could get close enough to take a picture, they said. . . .

SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND’S SEA MONSTER HUNTED

Los Angeles, California, *Times*, June 4, 1956

“The crew of the fishing boat, Endeavor, skippered by Sam Randazzo, saw the San Clemente serpent two years ago, and Randazzo fired a couple of shots at it with a 30-30.

“Randazzo said, “It was broad daylight and we approached within 15 feet of the beast, which looked like something out of prehistoric times. It was as big as a submarine. I fired two shots into it. We were close enough to hear the thud of the bullets in the monster’s flesh. It didn’t bleed, but quietly submerged.” . . .



Elephant seals
Piedras Blancas Light Station, California
(Bob Wick, BLM)

Buffum (1980) suggested, "I've concluded that the monster lives no longer in San Clemente waters. My conjecture is that this shy, elusive beast . . . unceremoniously was driven from his abode by frequent bombardments of the island by the U. S. Navy."

Rubenstein (1983) noted that five witnesses, all working construction on a cliffside stretch of Highway 1 in Marin County, saw a 100-foot-long sea serpent surface just before 2 p.m. "A flagman named Gary saw it first. He said the serpent was swimming toward the cliff from Duxbury Point, five miles away. He called Ratto, another flagman, on his two-way radio and told him to grab his binoculars. By that time, both men said, the serpent was 100 yards offshore and less than a quarter-mile away. It was being followed by about 100 birds and two dozen sea lions." Matt Ratto said it was black with three humps: "The body came out of the water first. . . . There were three bends, like humps, and they rose straight up. Then the head came up to look around." It turned around, lowered its head under the waves and swam back out to sea. Truck driver Steve Bjora said it was moving as fast as a car, about 45-50 mph.



An eyewitness, T. S., recently emailed me about his sighting of a strange marine animal during the early 2000s, sometime in the fall. This took place on the north side of the bluffs of Palo Verde Estates, where the offshore rocky shelves are called the Malaga Shelves. He couldn't sleep, so took a drive on the road that follows the cliffs south of Redondo Beach. He walked out in the dawn light on the cliffs, and saw a 'plesiosaur'-like animal, four flippers and a long tail, between 18 and 25 feet in length, foraging on the shelves in the water. He thought it was probably looking for crabs, as he had trapped large sheepshead

crabs there in the past. The animal was about 4-8 feet below the surface, which had a slight chop. It was gray in coloration. It never surfaced while he watched for about 20 minutes.

Bill and Bob Clark (see Clark 2005-2017), twin brothers, first saw a strange marine animal on February 5, 1985, while parked along the Marina Green in San Francisco only yards from the San Francisco Bay. A “long, black tubular object telescoped about ten feet straight up out of the water” and lunged at some sea lions. It had a snake-like head and was somewhere between sixty and one hundred feet in total length. It seemed to move via vertical undulation. Over the next several years, they continued to watch for it, and had several other sightings. Video evidence was taken and analyzed a few times, but is best considered equivocal. Additional details can be found in the Clarks’ article in Craig Heinselman’s 2001 *Dracontology Special Number 1* of his *Crypto* newsletter, available at StrangeArk.com/cryptozoology-resources.

OREGON

A SEA SERPENT

Albany, Oregon, *Daily Democrat*, October 18, 1888

The regular annual sea serpent has made his appearance again. Capt. Edgar Aver, of the bark Estella, while coming from Tacoma to this city with coal, descried the monster when the bark was passing the Umpqua river, Oregon. The serpent, for such the captain solemnly declared it to be, was swimming on the surface of the water in a southerly direction, several of the crew plainly saw the monster swimming by. He appeared to be about eighty feet long, and as big round as a barrel. He rode over the waves with his head and about ten feet of his body elevated above water.

Salem, Oregon, *Statesman Journal*, September 29, 1891

Quite an excitement was caused in St. Helens on last Friday morning by the report that a sea serpent had

been seen in the river the night before and again that morning. The parties who saw it declare that it was no sea lion, and its head and neck were shaped like those of a rattlesnake; that it rushed up and down through the water at a rapid rate. One gentleman, who is not easily excited, declares that it was a strange animal in that locality and thinks it can be none other than a genuine sea serpent.

COLUMBIA RIVER MONSTER

San Francisco, California, *Call*, October 19, 1896

Portland, OR, Oct. 18.—Dominick Bule, a pioneer and very reliable salmon-fisherman at Clifton, Clatsop County, reported in Portland this morning that yesterday, while he was out in the middle of the Columbia River in his boat, just about dusk, he saw an immense living object suddenly arise out of the water not twenty feet away from him. It had a head like that of a horse, covered with long hair, and its tusks, four in number, were at least a foot long. It stood out of the water about four feet and remained stationary, as he thought, about two minutes, its large eyes glaring fiercely at him.

Bule was so terrified that he was almost paralyzed. He stopped rowing and gazed at the object. He was not armed, and even had he had a gatling-gun he was too frightened to have used it. Suddenly the stranger opened its immense mouth and gave vent to a roar like that of a maddened bull. Then it began lashing the water, and Bule could see that it was about, as he estimated, twenty-five feet in length. So vigorous were its motions that great waves were created, and Bule's boat came near upsetting. Finally the monster dove and disappeared from sight.

As honest as Bule is known to be, his story was regarded as a fabrication until to-night, when it was confirmed by Frank Bolton, Henry Schmeer, William Farrell and John Bost, all fishermen. They were out in a boat early this morning, when the monster came to the

surface and acted precisely in the same manner as when Bule saw it. It did not attempt to molest the occupants of the boat, but when it disappeared in the water they got to land as quickly as possible.

For the next few days a large party of fishermen on a big raft will watch for the sea serpent, or whatever it may be, to kill it by shooting if possible.

BIGGER, BETTER SEA SERPENT

Portland, Oregon, *Oregonian*, January 12, 1934

To the Editor: All this publicity about sea serpents of British Columbia, Scotland and elsewhere, but not one word about Oregon's own serpent, known well these many long years by all comers to Otter Rock, right down here in Lincoln county! . . .

Numerous Portland residents know of, and have actually sighted, at too close quarters, the "sea serpent of Otter Rock," yet no one raises his voice to protect Oregon's prior claim.

This Lincoln county serpent is apparently ageless, having first been sighted by the old Indian, Dope Spencer (the town of Otter Rock is platted from the Spencer allotment), while out in his canoe in the Pacific getting salmon for his winter use. His terror upon seeing this great sea monster was so wracking that he could never again be induced to go out on the ocean. Old residents are all familiar with Dope's story, but they did not see the serpent until early in 1907, when it was sighted a number of times.

Of recent years it has been seen by persons on shore and by fishermen in their dories. No one ever estimates its length, for it apparently swims mostly under water, throwing out swells for unbelievable distances, making navigation very dangerous for small boats in the vicinity. . . .

G. Jones, Newport, Or.

SEA SERPENT SEEN IN BLOODY BATTLE AGAINST SEA LIONS

Medford, Oregon, *Mail Tribune*, February 15, 1934
Tillamook, Ore., Feb. 15.—(AP) Has the notorious and much publicized “sea serpent” of the Canadian coast visited the Oregon shore?

Two Tillamook men say they believe so. They are Everett Condit and Claude Myers.

Observing a great commotion among the sea lion herds at Seal Rocks while driving along the shore, the two turned field glasses on the rocks and saw, they declared, a sea serpent about 50 feet long. The green sea water was stained with red in the vicinity, they stated. A dead sea lion later was found on the shore.

SCHOOL OF STRANGE FISH AT ASTORIA

Salem, Oregon, *Capital Journal*, March 3, 1934
Astoria, Ore., March 3 (AP)—Although the “sea serpent” theory has not been invoked, the presence of a school of strange black fish or mammals off the Oregon coast opposite the Columbia river has puzzled mariners.

The veteran Captain H. Hones of the tanker *Captain A. F. Lucas*, described them as about 25 feet long, black, and with heads much the same as those of pigs. Never before, he said, had he seen such fish.

They were feeding on the surface, apparently, and did not sound until the tanker was almost over them, Captain Hones stated.

SEA SERPENT OFF COLUMBIA

Salem, Oregon, *Capital Journal*, March 16, 1934
Astoria, Ore., March 16 (UP)—Tales of a 40-foot sea serpent seen off the Columbia river mouth were brought in from the sea today by the lighthouse tender *Rose*.

Captain J. F. Jensen of the *Rose* said that members of the crew of the Columbia river lightship reported that a strange sea monster appeared close to the vessel a few days ago. All the crew saw the creature, Jensen declared, and A. C. Larson, mate on the lightship, made a sketch of it. . . .

The animal or whatever it was appeared close enough to be seen plainly by the naked eye from the lightship, and swam about for about 20 minutes, partly submerged, Jensen was told. It had a neck about eight feet long, with a large head. It opened its huge mouth and gaped at the lightship, the sailors told Jensen.

Members of the crew, after studying it for a time with field glasses wanted to lower a boat and go after it, but the officers discouraged the plan for fear it would swamp the boat.

SEE SEA SERPENT AT SEAL ROCKS

Albany, Oregon, *Greater Oregon*, June 28, 1935
B. P. and Mrs. Hall arrived from Woodburn Saturday and opened their summer cottage after a visit with Mr. Hall's daughter, Mrs. O. E. Strang and family at Seal Rocks.

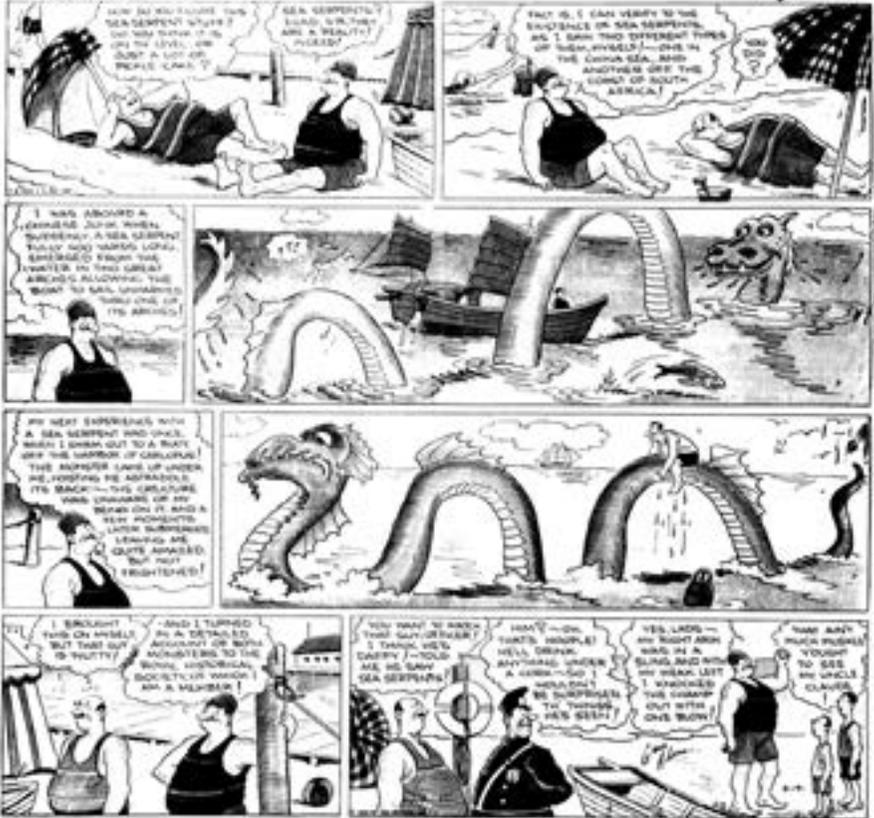
Mr. Hall gave a most interesting account of a sea serpent that was recently seen from Seal Rocks. He says that the truthfulness of the story will be vouched for by Mr. and Mrs. Strang and Mr. and Mrs. Olson, residents of Montana, who are temporarily living at Seal Rocks.

The sea lions attracted attention by making an unusual roaring sound and investigation showed a huge animal of enormous proportions thought to be a sea serpent. Looking from the distance, a dark brown object from 40 to 60 feet long with a head three feet wide and five feet long, tapering back to a neck of four feet in width was seen in the water. The sea lions scampered in all directions, leaving the newcomer master of ceremonies.

The serpent played around for half an hour, then started south at a rate of about 100 miles per hour. In a few minutes another one seemingly smaller, came from a westerly direction and again frightened the sea lions. In a short time this one left as quietly as it came. Both the visitors were thought to be sea serpents.—Yaquina Bay News.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

By Ahern



After 1934, with Loch Ness Monster and sea serpent articles appearing more often in newspapers, sea serpent imagery also increased in popular culture and in political satire.

JUST ONE SEA SERPENT AFTER ANOTHER



THE SEA SERPENT OF LOCH LEGALITY!



Let's Try To Get The Sea Serpent's Viewpoint



SEA SERPENT SEASON OPENS FOR ADOLF



SEA SERPENT CHAWS SNOOSE AND SNORTS

Portland, Oregon, *Journal*, October 24, 1937

Astoria, Or., Oct. 23—In the midst of a school of albacore tuna, 30 miles off Tillamook Rock, three Ilwaco, Wash., troll fishermen had as close-up a view of a sea serpent as they thought safe. Charles E. Graham, master of the trolling boat *Viv*, reported today in reaching port with a ton of fish—and the story.

Graham and his companions, Lark Wheeldon and Day Simmons, related that an object, mistaken for a snag and then a sea elephant, a species of sea lion, was a long, hairy, tan colored creature, with the head of an overgrown horse, more than 30 feet long and about a four-foot waist measure. His body seemed to disappear in the wake, Graham said.

Indifferent to the spellbound fishermen, the sea monster worked his fan-like upper lip as though he was chewing snuff, and except for a few snorts, took no notice of his company. With fishing poles outspread, the *Viv* sailed by the creature and swung about nearer. With the *Viv* moving away, the serpent sank like a rock, bubbles rising where it was enveloped by the seas, Graham said.

Simmons said he saw a flipper on the animal, but the master was unable to determine how the serpent moved so easily through the water. Its eyes, coal black, were about two and a half inches in diameter. The head would measure about three feet across, Graham said, and Wheeldon believed the busy upper lip was over a foot wide.

No ears had been sighted by any of the three startled onlookers.

Graham said the crew of the pilchard seiner *Alleta B* had seen the monster and had attempted to lasso the beast. The seiner left today for San Francisco.

SEA SERPENT IN OREGON

San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, April 16, 1939
Astoria (Ore.), April 15—(AP)—Shades of Loch Lomond!
The sea serpent is back with us.

Chris Anderson of the halibut schooner *Argo*, of Portland, said if what he saw Thursday wasn't a monster, then—well, what was it?

While fishing the banks off the Columbia River mouth, Anderson's eyes bulged when a huge thing with eyes like chunks of glass broke water within 10 feet of the *Argo's* hull.

To add to Anderson's consternation, the thing was calmly chewing on a 20-pound halibut, which the fisherman suspected was swiped from his lines.

Ignoring Anderson and his equally shocked crew, the thing floated around enjoying the scenery while the crew, gradually picking up courage, got out a boat hook and were going to punch the whatsit until Anderson, getting wind of their plot, put a quick stop to that.

"He could have sunk us with a nudge," said Anderson.

The thing had a head like a camel, rising about 10 feet above its body. It finally took a duck and Anderson got the *Argo* out of the vicinity right now.

When he told the story to friends today, they surmised he had seen an aged, gigantic sea elephant, which occasionally competes with the fishermen for halibut. A. Hansen, of the *Hermes*, said he had seen it and it had a funny looking snout resembling a camel's head.

"I've fished for 25 years," replied Anderson, "and I never saw anything like that. It may have been a sea elephant, but if it was, I never saw one that looked like what I saw this trip, and I never want to see it again."

SEAMEN REPORT SEA SERPENT

Klamath Falls, Oregon, *News*, September 7, 1939
Portland, Ore., Sept. 6 (AP) A couple of steamship men who know something about Neptune's large and unusual animals came home yesterday from a weekend tuna fishing trip off Tillamook declaring they saw a large-headed, thick-necked creature that fitted all descriptions of the oft-sighted but never photographed North Pacific sea serpent.

Robert O'Donnell and Vern Harms, coastwise steamship line employes, said they saw the monster 40 miles off Tillamook bay and that it poked its great head out of water and watched their boat for 10 minutes.

SEA SERPENT

Olympia, Washington, *Olympian*, August 8, 1940
Tacoma—(AP)—That famed denizen of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, "Elsie" the sea serpent—has bobbed up again.

That's the report made Thursday by Captain W. F. Eckert, Tacoma skipper, who claims to have had a good look at "Elsie" while he was between Neah Bay and Port Angeles last Friday.

"Off my starboard bow I saw what looked like water breaking over a rock," Eckert reported. "As the chart did not show any rocks there I edged over to see what it could be.

"There, apparently asleep on top of the water was a creature that was a stranger to me and the cook and engineer. The 'Whosit' is about 30 feet long and six or seven feet across. It was nearly white in color with a head like a sea lion, or a seal, the body of a sperm whale and a tail like a whale.

"The thing had light gray stripes along its body. We ran up about 100 feet from it."

Eugene, Oregon, *Guard*, December 14, 1947
Eugene—(To the Editor)—I read with interest the Sea Serpent story in your paper. . . . Once, about 41 years ago I wrote a short article about a serpent seen on Quarter Master Harbor, floating on the surface of the calm water, and the speed of it caused a small wave to come onto the shore. It was seen very early in the morning. It was seen by people who lived on the shore of Quarter Master Harbor. Instead of them publishing my story about them seeing the serpent, they wrote a little article in the Times and said, "The weather of late has been so

beautiful some people are seeing Sea Serpents.” Thank you. Sincerely, Ida Mae Shannon.

WASHINGTON

TACOMANS IN THE SWIM

Tacoma, Washington, *Daily Ledger*, August 3, 1890
. . . The wonders of the deep, which Jules Verne wrote so entertainingly about, are fast being eclipsed by those who row in Commencement bay. The whale story was quite startling at first to the people of Tacoma, who have been educated to believe that whales do not grow in this country, but it has been eclipsed by a story which is told by four of the most veracious of Tacoma’s society people. Last Wednesday night, when the waters of the bay were perfectly calm and a bright moon shown down with ‘a clear blue light’ a row boat containing Messrs. Halsted and Handford, with the Misses Ouimette and Douglas was slowly approaching Brown’s point. The gentlemen were wholly engrossed in the work of propelling the boat, when one of the ladies called the attention of the party to what they at first took to be the famed whale. Closer examination disputed this conclusion. The party described the object as about twenty-five feet long, moving with a wriggling, serpentine motion, very near the surface, having no fins so far as they could see. The party indignantly deny the insinuation that it is the whale, or that a visit to the club house had been made by any of them. The only explanation that they will accept is that a sea serpent, fierce and shiny was met by them.

A HUGE SEA SERPENT

Spokane, Washington, *Review*, August 14, 1891
A sea serpent in Puget sound is the latest sensation, and although seen several days ago by the officers of the steamer *Sehome*, it has just been made known, says the Port Townsend *Leader*. On Sunday, August 2, while

rounding Point Williams about 7 o'clock in the evening, the *Sehome* was passed by a huge sea monster from thirty to forty feet long and about a foot thick. It was seen by H. B. Street, the boat's quartermaster, and George W. Doney, the pilot. Street was standing near the pilot-house when he saw the huge serpent swimming rapidly past the steamer. He did not realize what it was at first, but when it rose to the surface of the water he was rooted to the spot. He says the boat was running about twelve miles an hour, but the serpent was swimming so rapidly that it passed immediately in front of the bow of the boat and went down on the opposite side. In describing the scene Street said: "I first thought it was a seal when I saw its head, but as it rose to the top of the water and I saw about ten feet of it clear out of the water I knew it was not a seal. Then when I noticed how it lashed the water with its tail I saw that it was a sea serpent thirty or forty feet long, and it left a hundred feet wake in the water behind it. As it passed around the bow of the boat it lowered its head and spread out a big fin on the upper part of its neck, just back of the head. It swam just like a snake and twisted itself through the water in regular snake fashion. I have been on the water a long time, but never saw such a monster before. As soon as I saw what it was I called the pilot's attention to it, and he said at once that it was a sea serpent." Both Street and Doney are reliable men whose word can not be questioned, and the fact that they say they saw this monster beyond all doubt, establishes the fact that there is or was a sea serpent in the water of the sound among the many other wonderful creatures that are found in this arm of the sea.

SEA SERPENT BY THE YARD

San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, May 16, 1895
Seattle, May.—News comes from Coupeville, on Whidbey island, that a sea serpent has been seen in the waters of Puget sound near that city, and as a result the

people of the vicinity, especially the farmers, are greatly wrought up over the story. Being on an island many of the residents own their own boat and are accustomed to sail to points on the mainland to market their goods, while others maintain boats for pleasure. Since the report that a sea serpent is in these waters few are daring enough to venture on the water.

The *Island County Times*, published by E. George Earle, well known in this state, has the following regarding the serpent:

“The *Times* this week has the pleasure of giving its readers a well authenticated account of the appearance of a sea serpent in the waters of Admiralty inlet, but a few hundred feet from this island. It is seldom that the ‘great unknown’ has made his tangible existence manifest in the presence of more reputable witnesses than on this occasion, and it is with a great deal of pride that we offer to the scientific world so reliable a contribution to the extensive literature on a much mooted question.

“Our witnesses are E. J. Hancock, one of our foremost citizens, a deacon of the Congregational Church and Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and Charles Olsen, another reliable citizen. As they were driving along the bluff on the road leading up to the lighthouse one day last week Mr. Olsen’s attention was attracted by a strange creature in the water. It quickly disappeared, but he directed the attention of Mr. Hancock to the spot, and soon it reappeared in plain view of both of them. It displayed a large, serpentine head about eight inches broad and more than twice as long, a neck three or more feet long and thick as a man’s arm, and rods of slimy, snake-like body twelve inches or more in thickness.

“Three or four times it appeared, raising its head three or four feet out of the water and diving like a porpoise, apparently rolling under each time. Mr. Hancock thinks they saw twelve or fifteen feet of the body, but each time it disappeared without displaying its full length. It was within 300 or 400 yards of them.”

SAW A SEA SERPENT IN BELLINGHAM BAY

San Francisco, California, *Examiner*, August 19, 1895
Tacoma (Wash.), August 18.—Puget Sounds has a sea serpent, with reputable citizens and an affidavit to attest its genuineness. The monster is fifty feet long, and was last seen in Bellingham bay by L. U. Stenger, Collector of Customs at that point; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gourley and C. A. Forberg, the latter a Y.M.C.A. man, all residents of New Whatcom, and all of whom agree as to the color and proportions of the monster.

Under oath Stenger testifies that he saw a “monster of the deep, sometimes called a sea serpent,” between New Whatcom and Fairhaven, on Bellingham bay, at a point near the old Bellingham sawmill. A year ago Forberg, then secretary and athletic instructor of the New Whatcom Y.M.C.A., saw the monster near the same point. The Gourleys and Stenger were out in a steam launch last week, when Stenger, who was sitting near the stern of the little steamer, suddenly noticed a huge, slimy, dark-brown body twisting about in the waters to the rear of the vessel. It resembled a huge snake, and its head was under water within two or three feet from the wheel of the launch, while the thick part of the body rose within six feet from the stern of the boat. The body was cylindrical, about fourteen inches in diameter in the thickest part, and tapered to about two inches in diameter near the point of the tail. The end of the tail was represented by a cup-like nob, light colored in the hollow, and very much resembling the suckers on a devil fish’s arms.

The monster was evidently about fifty feet long, thirty feet of the body being visible above the surface of the water. The snake followed the launch about fifty feet and then suddenly dove forward, going directly under the boat, its massive proportions writhing and splashing the water very startingly. [Mr.] Stenger has always held that the sea serpent yarns published in the newspapers were myths, but he is thoroughly convinced that what he saw Thursday evening is nothing more or less than

a great sea fish in the form of a huge snake. It had a white or flesh-colored stripe across the thickest part of the body, as if it had been struck by an oar or propeller, cutting a deep gash, that had not quite healed over.

SEA SERPENT'S TALE IS AFLOAT EARLY IN SEASON

Bellingham, Washington, *Herald Sun*, February 20, 1910
While the business men of Bellingham predict a great spring opening in all lines of business within the next month the mariners and citizens who travel by water are also seeing things. Jack Brown, a resident of Anacortes, swears by all the Roman gods that a sea serpent followed the launch *Falcon* into port yesterday afternoon. Brown says that he was sure he saw the serpent and that his pal, Harry Johnson, can vouch for the same.

According to Brown, who told his tale on Sehome dock yesterday afternoon, the serpent resembled a huge porpoise with an extraordinarily big mouth and had three long knife-like fins which cut the water with a swish as the big black monster followed the *Falcon*.

"We first noticed the thing off Samish island," said Brown, talking to a friend. "It rose up out of the water like a whale and spouted furiously. If the *Falcon* had run under that spout of water when it descended we sure would have been swamped. Nobody but Johnson and myself were in the cockpit of the *Falcon* and we thought it about time to hike for the pilot-house to keep from being swiped off the aft deck by the big brute. It had a huge head like a Mississippi river catfish and a row of teeth like an alligator's. I tell you this is straight facts just as Johnson and myself saw the monster and had not the *Falcon* been a swift boat I believe she would have gone where the lost ships go.

"I could not say how long the thing was for it was partly under water most of the time, but it must have been at least . . . scales as big as the pie tin and its eyes looked like two big poached eggs. Just as we passed Chuckanut bay the serpent stopped chasing us and suddenly dove out of sight. It appeared a minute later in the

midst of a flock of brant and I plainly saw several brant go down its ivory lined throat.

“Johnson and I did not say anything about the serpent to the crew of the boat as we did not want to get ‘bawled out,’ but nevertheless it is as true as I stand here. That serpent will be heard from again in a day or two, and don’t you forget it.”

Sees Big Sea Serpent

Seattle, Washington, *Daily Times*, March 9, 1922

A monster sea serpent, gamboling on the white crested waves in the vicinity of North Beach, may rival the Argentinian antediluvian reptile reported in scientific circles, judging by the tale brought to Seattle yesterday by Lieut. Joseph E. Osborne of No. 8 Truck Company in Ballard.

Osborne’s tale is bolstered by another fireman who claims to have seen a similar monster about two years ago in the same neighborhood of the Pacific Ocean.

Osborne was out fishing in a small boat, he said, when his attention was called to the sea serpent, which he judged to be at least 100 feet long, by a commotion among the seagulls feeding near the shore. The monster was swimming on the surface with a large head reared high from the water, but apparently did not notice Osborne, who made a hasty retreat to shore.

“I was trolling between the oil docks and was out some distance,” Osborne told his fellow firefighters on his return. “All at once the gulls began to fly about with strange shrill cries. I turned to find out what the trouble was and almost fell out of the boat with amazement when I saw the serpent a short distance away.

“It had a head like a huge snake, the head part being about the size of an apple box. The head was attached to a snake-like body or neck about as thick as a man’s body. The head was reared up two or three feet in the poise of a rattlesnake ready to strike, but the serpent was swimming along the surface in the same manner as an eel. I

turned my boat for the shore and watched the serpent swim as I rowed hard and fast.

“The serpent swam on the surface for possibly a hundred yards, when it suddenly lowered its head and disappeared under the water.”

Two years ago Fireman Ralph J. Sypher of No. 2 Engine Company returned from a trip in the same locality and gave out what was then accounted a highly colored tale of a similar sea serpent off North Beach. Sypher claims that Osborne’s experience verifies his claims that the serpent exists and the two firemen believe the serpent is the same one reported at different times at various spots on the North Pacific Coast in the last decade.

The firemen are undecided whether to organize a private expedition for the capture of the sea monster or to the capture of the sea monster or to let a scientific party worry about it. Since the reported finding of a prehistoric reptile in the wilds of Argentina, with worldwide publicity. Osborne and Sypher say the North Beach serpent may prove one of the tourist assets of the Northwest if regular appearances can be arranged.

SEA SERPENT IS SEEN NEAR COAST

Bend, Oregon, *Bulletin*, March 17, 1934

Chinook, Wash., Mar. 17—(UP)—Either Penda or its mate, Amy, both sea serpent socialites in British Columbia waters, is vacationing in coastal seas, various reports indicated here today.

The undulating coils of the northern denizen were viewed snaking around the Columbia river lightship earlier in the week and Thursday, it was seen cavorting along the shores of Sand island jetty, in shallow water.

O. J. Tofte, superintendent of San island jetty, in the mouth of the Columbia river, and Will Weiler, government inspector, watched the creature as it thrashed along the jetty for about 20 minutes.

“It’s head was under water, but we could see its long body,” the men reported today. “It appeared to be at least 40 feet in length.”

At the same time, word came from Astoria that the lightship crew, returned to port for a rest, said the serpent “swam” about their ship for about 20 minutes. . . .

TWO SEA SERPENTS SEEN AT OLYMPIA

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, June 3, 1938

Olympia, Washington, has discovered two sea serpents. . . . The *Daily Olympian* reports the discovery by Archie Reed as follows:

“They looked, in general, like snakes. More than 20 feet of each of them was in sight. The pair of them had a dead mud shark, or what looked like a mud shark, and were eating it. Their heads, much like snakes’ heads, stuck about three or four feet out of the water. Then part of the body went under water, then a big coil came up out of the water, and then some more was submerged and then—back where the tail should be—the serpents were all hairy.

“Reed said the creatures had very blunt noses. Their eyes were small, he said, and he did not get a very good look at them. The serpents were in shallow water, about 50 feet from shore. Their bodies were between two and three feet in diameter. Overhead, seagulls flapped about, yearning to feast on the mud shark, but fearful of the serpents.

“Reed turned his boat toward the serpents and advanced. They deserted their meal and fled. But he got within 50 feet of them.

“‘If I’d only had a gun,’ said Reed.”

100-FOOT ‘MONSTER’ EXCITES MADRONA

Bellingham, Washington, *Herald*, February 26, 1947
Bailey Peninsula, Lake Washington, Wash., Feb. 26—(UP)—The “Madrona sea-monster” which has lake residents lining the shore in mass vigil, made its third appearance in four days just before dawn today.

Early this morning, at the south end of the 30-mile-long lake, aquarium-owner Ivar Haglund of Seattle told the United Press he saw a “sudden turbulence” about three hundred yards off Bailey peninsula—six miles south of Madrona beach where the “100-foot monster” was first seen.

Haglund said the disturbance was followed by a violent surfacing of a headless, tailless object.

Haglund’s statement bore out earlier reports of a Madrona beach housewife, Mrs. Mary Barrie, who said she saw a “dark, crinkly backed object” swimming south Saturday noon. Mrs. Barrie’s gardener, a Mr. Thomas, also saw it, she said. Last night Mrs. Barrie again reported seeing similar activity in the waters directly off her lakefront home.

“It was about 100 feet long, but I could only see the middle,” she said, “which was about 25 feet. By the movement of water in front and behind I thought its tail and head were submerged.”

PICTURE-PROOF OFFERED SEA-MONSTER
REALLY EXISTS IN WASHINGTON LAKE
Nevada State Journal, March 2, 1947

Bailey’s Peninsula, Lake Washington, Wash., March 1 (UP) Aquariumist Ivar Haglund offered the United Press today picture-proof that the “Madrona sea-monster,” reported frolicking in Lake Washington, really exists.

“This picture clearly shows an uncommon creature. I went back to the peninsula this morning determined to see it again—and possibly get a picture,” he said.

Haglund said the picture shows three fin-like humps and a long dark tail.

“It was floating quietly when I spotted it this morning for the second time,” he said. Haglund said he thought at first it was mallard ducks in single file, a common sight in Lake Washington.

“I took a picture anyway. Five minutes later the thing submerged and didn’t come up again.” . . .

Ivar Haglund's Madrona Sea Monster photo can be viewed online at: <https://pauldorpat.com/2012/03/31/seattle-now-then-a-golden-rule-for-april-fools/>

It does appear to simply show a line of ducks (and some ducks do dive). Haglund would later offer \$5,000 "dead or alive" for the monster.

AND ANOTHER SEA MONSTER!

Dayton, Ohio, *Herald*, March 7, 1947

Seattle, March 7—(UP)—Well, sire, the old seaman said, this sea monster—the Madrona sea monster, we call it around here—came a-slithering out of the United States government locks, right over there, and went a-swimming out to sea with only its hump back showing.

Nope, I didn't see it myself. But Ray Lichtenberger—he's the owner of that boat house across the way—Ray saw it, sure enough, coming from those locks that hook up Puget Sound with Lake Washington. . . .

It just took a notion to go out to sea for a while, I guess. Came out of the middle of the lake and slipped into the government locks when some big ship moved in. Then they opened the gates at the other end, and the ship went out, and the monster waited a little while and then it made a bee-line out of the sound.

That's when Ray Lichtenberger saw it. "The part above the surface was about 30 feet long," Ray told me. We all figure it must be a good 60 feet or more . . .

PUGET SOUND'S SEA SERPENT WORTH \$5,000—DEAD OR ALIVE

Tulsa, Oklahoma, *Daily World*, March 9, 1947

Seattle, Mar. 8 (UP) . . . Photographer A. L. Thompson saw the monster early this morning moving through Juan De Fuca straits one-half mile of Ediz Hook today. And Arlene Ray, wife of the manager of the local Salmon club, spotted it through binoculars from her home in the Ediz Hook spit.

Thompson's 2-cylinder outboard motor boat was no match for the speed of the humped, three-finned "thing"

that is estimated to be more than 30 feet long—possibly 60 feet.

Madrona submerged before Thompson could get within camera range.

“I watched Thompson take chase but he never gained,” said Mrs. Ray. Nobody has a complete conception of what Madrona looked like in toto because all they have ever seen of him is his black humped back—30 feet of it. . . .

Barrett (1989): “And then there was The Thing, observed in 1961 by a family out for a stroll on Dungeness Spit, which curves out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Its body was described as ‘a rich, deep brown with large reticulations of bright, burnt orange,’ probably meaning the colors were mottled. The Thing also had a six-foot neck, three humps and a long, floppy mane.”

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CADDY’S AGE IN DOUBT

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 24, 1940
Nanaimo, B.C. (CP)—Just how old Cadborosaurus . . . is no one seems to know. The question was brought up, however, with the death here of Frank J. Stannard, pioneer Nanaimo merchant.

In the summer of 1881 Mr. Stannard, then a boy of 12, was one of a party of six young people who were paddling a canoe off William Head, when suddenly there rose beside them, according to reports, a monster of “unknown habits.”

From all accounts it was the same Caddy that has appeared and reappeared in recent years. Refusing to be daunted, young Stannard pulled out his sling shot and let fly at one of the creature’s “folds.”

The shot ricocheted off the creature’s hide and the animal dived into the water. It is believed that this was one of the first reported encounters of white men with the “monster.”

THE SEA SERPENT

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, December 24, 1888

With the approach of Christmas the appearance of the regular annual sea serpent is reported. This time he is a little out of his latitude and longitude, having been seen by the captain of a vessel off Winpqua Bay, who was on a voyage from Tacoma to San Francisco. He appeared to be about eighty feet long and as big around as a barrel. He rode over the waves with his head and about ten feet of his body elevated above the water, every now and then dipping his immense head into the water, the body making gigantic convulsions while gliding caterpillar like over the waves.

THE SEA SERPENT

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, April 17, 1889

Capt. Rail, who arrived in Nanaimo on Tuesday evening from San Juan Island in a canoe, reports to the *Courier* having seen the only real sea serpent on the Pacific coast. Monday afternoon about 3 o'clock, the sea being smooth, just a light breeze blowing, and the captain snugly ensconced in the stern of the canoe, lazily enjoying a pipe, and visions of sea serpents and other monsters of the salty deep being far distant from his mind, he was startled by the foaming of the water just in front of his little vessel. Hastily looking up he saw not twenty feet distant the tail of what he believed to be a veritable sea serpent lashing the water to a foam. He did not see the head of the monster, it being submerged in the ocean. The animal, or whatever it might be called, after disporting itself alongside and in front of the canoe, suddenly sank out of sight and was no more seen. The Captain states that the caudal appendage of the serpent was fully twenty-five feet long and glistened in the sun like burnished armor.

AN ADVENTURE IN THE GULF

Vancouver, B. C., *Weekly News Advertiser*, July 23, 1890

On Tuesday night Mr. J. M. Stewart arrived in the City

from his logging camp where he has been for some weeks. Yesterday in conversation with some of his friends, Mr. Stewart recited an interesting adventure he, and the companions with whom he came from the camp, had on their way down. They were crossing the mouth of Howe Sound about sundown on Tuesday night, rowing leisurely, when Mr. Stewart drew attention to a peculiar log about two hundred feet away from them on their right hand. The log was a deep black in color, straight from end to end as an arrow and about 75 feet long. They rested on their oars for a few minutes, looking at it in a languid sort of way, and then concluded to row to it and see what kind of wood it was. They headed their boat straight for it and when within about 30 feet it sank in the water like a stone without the slightest noise and disappeared from sight. The boat's crew were deeply astonished at this unexpected turn of affairs and somewhat alarmed. They paused once more, half expecting to see it rise again, and dreading lest it rise under and capsize the boat. After about three minutes of this expectancy they concluded, as nothing resulted, to continue their course. They accordingly headed their boat for home and started. They had not gone very far, however, when they again beheld the same object, this time on their left and a little nearer. They were now determined to see what it was, and directed their course once more toward it. When they got within about fifteen yards of it the object again sank, but almost immediately reappeared, blowing a stream of water at the boat's crew and drenching them. This at once convinced the men that it was not a log they had encountered, and when the animal began lashing the water with its tail, which it did in such a manner as almost to swamp the boat, each man came to the conclusion that it was the sea serpent they had run across. They turned their boat and made off as rapidly as possible, but the animal seemed to think it was its turn to assume the offensive, and it pursued them, keeping at about ten yard distance, and lashing

the water unremittingly. This flight and pursuit continued for about a mile, when the animal left as suddenly as it came. Mr. Stewart avers that the animal, whatever it was, was not a whale, and while he does not claim that it was the traditional sea serpent on a cruise in northern waters he contends that it was an inhabitant of the sea not very often met with, and a very undesirable companion on a voyage in a small boat.

A SEA MONSTER

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, January 13, 1897

The weekly meeting of the Natural History Society was held yesterday evening at the provincial library. Although no paper was read, a very interesting topic was discussed. Mr. Ferguson told howe, while in company with Mr. Walker, on a prospecting tour in Queen Charlotte Islands in June, 1895, he saw the much talked of sea serpent. The two men were in a boat off the islands when they saw the animal coming towards them and about 200 yards away. It attracted their curiosity owing to its peculiar appearance. As it approached a portion of the animal's body was arched in an oval shape above the water, but when passing their boat Mr. Ferguson says it straightened out and lifted its head about five feet out of the water and passed by in that position. After passing it again arched its back and remained so until it passed from their sight. The head was small, similar to that of a serpent. The body was about a foot and a half in diameter at its largest point. Although the monster seemed to be looking directly at them as it passed them, neither Mr. Ferguson nor his comrade could see any eyes. Its tail was very similar to that of a dogfish, moving vertically and in an undulating manner. It was apparently without scales and its fin was continuous. In color it was dark, and it was at least 25 feet long. Mr. Ferguson produced a pencil drawing of the sea serpent, which he made at the time and exhibited it to those present. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Walker, his partner on that prospecting tour,

are well known in this city and are believed to be very truthful men. For fear of ridicule and of being classified among the followers of the cult of Ananias they did not make their discovery known previously. Members of the Natural History Society had by some means or other heard of the matter and invited Mr. Ferguson to their meeting to describe the monster for their benefit. The description elicited a long discussion, and the matter will be further investigated as the Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands tell many stories of a sea serpent being seen in that locality.

Saw Sea-Serpent from *New England*

Vancouver, B. C., *Province*, August 5, 1902

The best sea-serpent story that has developed in Vancouver for years was brought down to-day by the steamer *New England*.

There are two special features about the story that make it altogether separate and distinctive from all other sea-serpent tales that have been brought to light in Vancouver, or indeed anywhere else. In the first place—no, in the second place, this sea serpent was not bashful, and he gave every opportunity of being seen, for at least thirty feet of him was in the air for five minutes, and not three hundred feet away from two of the fishing boats; and there are four reputable fishermen who will make affidavit that they saw him, a fact undoubtedly entitled to first place and consideration.

This occurred on Saturday. The fishermen had gone out in the morning and were at different distances from the steamer. There were many whales sporting about in the vicinity and the halibut catch was large.

“All at once an object rose out of the water a little to one side of us,” said Mr. Alex. Easler, in describing the incident this morning. “I paid no attention at first, as we were busy pulling in halibut, until my partner drew my attention to it. The fish, or whatever it was, pulled itself thirty feet out of the water, and was almost as straight as

if it had been a fixed column of water. There must have been at least twice the same length under the water to support the immense weight of the body in the air. The fish moved at right angles to us, and left a distinct wake behind.

“It was very close by, not more than a hundred yards I should think, and the steamer was quite a distance away. I called to my partner to look out, and he stood by to cut the gear clear from the boat so that we could get away if the thing came toward us. It was in the air four or five minutes, and then gradually went out of sight. I have been to sea for thirty years, and I never saw anything like it before. We did not see the head plainly enough to tell what kind of mouth or eyes it had.”

Other fishermen of the *New England* corroborate this story in every detail.

SEA-SERPENT AT BAMFIELD

Vancouver, B.C., *Province*, April 14, 1903

Victoria, B.C., April 14.—Officers of the cable station at Bamfield Creek are sponsors for the story that a sea-serpent from forty to sixty feet long, and with a head like a horse, has been seen off the station. The cable operators say in letters to local papers that Indians had been telling of the existence of a sea-serpent, but the stories were not credited.

David Osborne, one of the officials says that a week ago the serpent was seen from the cable station to raise a big horse-like head and swim out from the mouth of Bamfield Creek into Barclay Sound.

Mr. Godson of the cable staff says that when he first saw the serpent it looked like a mass of seaweed, but presently he saw a head elevated, and the big serpent moved off, its outline visible, toward the sea. Mr. Godson says it moved off with the speed of a torpedo boat.

On April 10 an Indian saw the thing, and was so frightened that he ran his canoe into the breakers, left it, and fled along the beach to the cable station. The Indian

said the thing had a head shaped like a horse, and that its body—ten feet of which was lifted—was the size of a barrel. The Indians in the neighborhood are terrified.

Victoria, B.C., *Daily Times*, August 11, 1908

John G. Johnston, a timber-cruiser of this city, who came down on the *Vadso* has the distinction of being the first man to sight the sea-serpent in the Skeena river. According to his story the creature rose from the depths within twenty feet of a row boat in which he, with some companions, was crossing the river last week. Johnston says that the serpent's head protruded nine or ten feet from the water and that it had a similar appearance to the head of a big seal. Curiously enough a boat-load of cannery-hands reported seeing a similar monster of the deep on the following day and the officers of the *Vadso* state that the story is generally accepted as gospel truth at Port Essington.

SKIDEGATE INDIANS TELL OF SEA SERPENT

Victoria, B.C., *Daily Times*, September 4, 1913

Sea serpents are oftentimes reported seen by sea-faring men during their weary voyages across the great oceans. Some of these deep-sea denizens have been said to patrol certain coasts and prevent intrusions from foreign forces, others have swallowed ships and still many more simply sport themselves alongside vessels and create consternation amongst the crew.

Another sea serpent has been discovered, according to the officers of the G. T. P. steamer *Prince Albert*, Capt. Morehouse, which came into port last night from Prince Rupert via the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Indians of Skidegate have become greatly alarmed over the appearance of a peculiar fish or animal on their fishing grounds. The story told by the natives to the men on the *Prince Albert* was to the effect that a monster, about 20 feet in length and between two and three feet in circumference wrapped itself twice around the oar of

one of the Indian canoes. The natives were so frightened at the appearance of this queer fish that they released the oar from the rowlock and dropped it overboard.

The next day the Indians went out again to fish and this time the monster took what the seaman call two hitches around one of the canoes, according to the story, and the natives were paralyzed with fright. Finally an old, dusky warrior whose past may have witnessed him in mortal combat with some human foe, drew forth a sharp hunting-knife. He proceeded to carve the body of the sea serpent. Feeling his body being severely cut the monster commenced to struggle violently and all but upset the canoe. The cutting was soon done and his grip being lost, the two parts of the serpent went overboard. When the Albert was there the Indians were still troubled. They were afraid to go out, for fear the monster had not died. . . .

“Sea Serpent” Seen in B.C. Coast Waters

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 6, 1925

The sea-serpent has emerged from several years of obscurity beneath the waves and is gamboling around with rare delight in the waters surrounding Queen Charlotte Islands. Definite descriptions of a marine monster, unlike any fish known to science, reached John P. Babcock, Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries and eminent fish authority, here today and left him wholly unable to explain the discovery.

The creature was seen on the waters of an inlet in Graham Island last month by a number of settlers living along the shore, Mr. Babcock was assured by John J. Van Valkenburg, who writes a careful description of the strange visitor. For two months children of the neighborhood have been telling their parents about the animal but it was not until he saw it for himself that he believed in its existence, Mr. Valkenburg admitted.

“When I saw the animal going down the inlet he was traveling with the tide with the slow wriggling

motion that a land snake employs when swimming at leisure," Mr. Valkenburg wrote. "The head and about six or eight feet of the body was above the surface. When it submerged its body came up in a long spiral like a rope being dragged over a submerged object. Its tail did not come out so that I was not able to state its size precisely.

"The body was round, dark green, almost black on the back, growing lighter towards the belly with splatches of the black. The head was rather long and I could see knobs that I took for eyes and nostrils. I did not see the mouth as it was on a level or just below the surface. I should judge that the body was anywhere from fifteen inches to twenty inches in diameter but it was about 500 yards from me so I could not be certain."

The fact that the eyes and nostrils of the creature were visible at 500 yards amazed Mr. Babcock. This fact, he said, would seem to indicate that it was of enormous size. Wolf fish common in neighboring waters answer to some of the specifications of the creature seen around the Queen Charlotte Islands but they do not swim on top of the water and never reach the size of the newly-discovered freak.

Mr. Babcock was written to Mr. Van Valkenburg stating that he knows of no fish like that described. Mr. Valkenburg is attempting to secure photographs of the rare visitor.

SEA SERPENT TRACKED TO LAIR AT LAST

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 10, 1925

The age-long sea-serpent mystery appeared to have uncoiled itself today when John P. Babcock, Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries, was notified that Queen Charlotte Island Indians had identified the notorious sea serpents of their neighborhood as huge eels which live there in large numbers.

John J. Van Valkenburg, who has been investigating the sea serpent story all Summer and who claims to have seen one of those interesting creatures, is responsible

for tracing the monsters to their den. From ancient Indians living in the Queen Charlotte Islands he has learned that for many years the natives have been accustomed to catch astoundingly large eels at rare intervals. These eels, the Indians say, live in a dark, slimy cave at the northern part of the Islands. Here many years ago an Indian brave, aided by six logs, did battle with one of the monsters and killed it after a fierce fight. The eel killed in this encounter was nearly forty feet long.

The Indians' descriptions of the eels, says Mr. Van Valkenburg, tallies precisely with the appearance of the strange creature which he saw swimming near his home a few weeks ago. "They have a very large head, big nostrils and the mouth is equipped with very long, sharp teeth," he states.

Mr. Van Valkenburg announces that he will shortly make an expedition to the home of the eels, invade their cave and kill one if he can, thus solving the sea-serpent mystery for all time.

SEA SERPENT IS NO MYTH IS CLAIM OF EYE WITNESS

Nanaimo, B. C., *Daily News*, March 20, 1926

Prince Rupert, March 20—The sea serpent is no myth, but a real fact, according to Captain C. J. House, of New Westminster with the Government Fishery Protection boat Cloyah on Tuesday. The creature raised its head thirty feet above the surface of the water, and when erect it looked almost like a telephone pole, except that the head was wider than the body, he says.

The Cloyah was going north and just emerging into Wright Sound, when Captain House saw a considerable disturbance of the water, like that caused by a whale, just beneath the surface. Just opposite Turtle Point the creature began raising its head out of the water, the body coming up spirally, just like a snake, and then straightening out. The head, he thinks, was about eighteen inches wide and possibly two and a half feet long.

The thing remained erect for about half a minute and then disappeared, spirally, as it had come. When submerged it churned up the water and left a wake for a long time like a school of porpoises moving outward toward the sea, the way it came.

The captain says the sun was shining through the clouds and gave the hideous creature a greenish-gold appearance. He says he knows most other sea creatures, and he was sure it was nothing he had ever seen before.

PACIFIC COAST SEA SERPENT HAS BEEN OBSERVED BEFORE

Vancouver, B. C., *Province*, March 28, 1926

British Columbia's huge sea serpent, seen March 16 near Hecate Straits, which separate Queen Charlotte Islands from the mainland, by Captain C. J. House of New Westminster, an officer in the service of the Canadian Government fishery patrol, is believed to be the same one sighted August 6, 1925, by Mr. John J. Van Valkenburg of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Captain House has prepared the following signed statement, together with three sketches of the monster:

"I have prepared three sketches of sea serpent sighted off Cridge Passage, Wright Sound, on Tuesday, March 16, 1926, at 2:45 p.m., about a quarter of a mile distant, between Farrant Island and Gil Island, coming toward the south end of Grenville Channel and Wright's Sound.

"The first approach of this object, which drew attention, was the churning of water such as is usually made by a school of porpoises coming up this passage toward the Sound.

"The next and first appearance was the object rising spirally out of the water and then straightening out to about thirty feet high above the surface, retaining this position for half a minute.

"The last position was when it recoiled back into the water, churning it to a white foam, and returning submerged the same way as it came up, at a rapid rate of speed.

“As the sun was shining through the clouds the body took on a bright glistening green and bronze color.

“The head appeared to have several dark ridges as shown on drawing, also long pieces of thick skin, much like kelp hanging from its head, also shining as if water was dripping from it, as sketched.”

Mr. Van Valkenburg described the creature as being of enormous length, with a body like a snake, and about two feet in diameter. Its head was so large that its enormous nostrils and knob-like eyes were visible at a distance of 500 yards. It made its progress leisurely and partly submerged.

This creature has been seen by several observers at different times, but when approached in boats it always dove, in spiral waves. It was greenish-black in color and the back had yellow splotches and splotched with black underneath. Mr. Van Valkenburg saw it twice, on successive days, last July. He reported the matter to Mr. John P. Babcock, deputy commissioner of fisheries.

Indians on the Queen Charlotte Islands had also reported the serpent last summer, and in fact had refused to go to sea to fish until a government fishery vessel came to protect them from the monster. A fishery vessel made a search but found nothing.

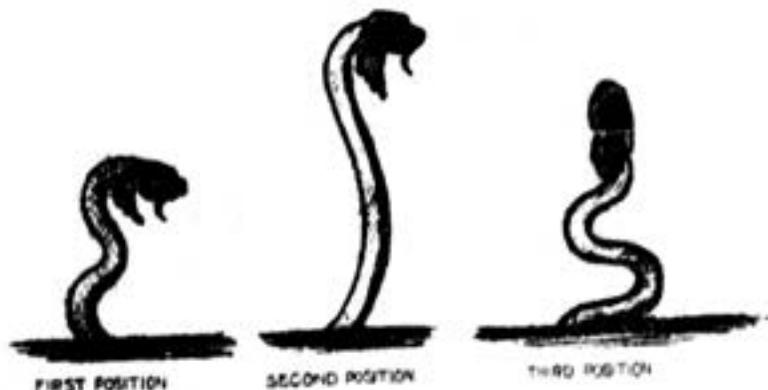
YACHTSMEN TELL OF HUGE SEA SERPENT SEEN OFF VICTORIA

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 5, 1933

A giant sea-serpent, described as being nearly eighty feet long and about as wide as the average automobile, was seen last Sunday near Chatham Island about three miles from Oak bay. The strange creature has been viewed by five persons on different occasions. On Sunday Major W. H. Langley, Victoria barrister and clerk of the Legislature, and Mrs. Langley saw it, and in August, 1932, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Kemp and their son watched it disport itself.

Practically the whole of the serpent was seen by Mr. Kemp and his family, but Major and Mrs. Langley, who

SKETCHES OF SEA SERPENT REPORTED IN NORTH COAST WATERS



THE above sketches were made by Captain C. J. House of New Westminster, an officer in the service of the Canadian Government fishery patrol on this coast, who reported sighting a sea monster March 16 while bound north to Prince Rupert in a small launch. Captain House is a man who bears a very fine reputation, and his report is taken seriously by the department.

The 1926 sketch by Captain House

"CADDY"



In the above sketch is Father Macdonald of St. Mary's, and Mrs. Kemp, 1111 Marine Street, and their family saw him off Fairview Beach, where he about two miles off New Westminster. In the sketch of the "Caddy" Mr. Kemp prepared the sketch of "Caddy". The sketch was accompanied by the following note: "The underwater portion which I have put in is entirely conjectural but I have concluded it from the reports of other displaced persons. I believe that the lower part of the body would have been very dark. I feel the uncertainty I finally believe the creature had flippers on each side of its body. The picture is merely an illustration of what I believe it to be and not the most exact representation." Many of groups have reported sighting "Caddy" but the sketches are believed to have had the dorsal fin of this "Caddy" was completely omitted.

Sketch by F. W. Kemp, 1933 sighting

were about seventy feet away from it saw but a portion of it. Mr. Kemp said nothing after seeing it last year, fearing he might be ridiculed. Since Major Langley saw the monster, however, and both descriptions agreed in every detail, both yachtsmen agree the sea serpent does exist. The occasion on which the Kemp family saw the animal was during the first week in August of last year while Mr. Kemp, who is a member of the provincial archives staff, was holidaying.

The family was spending the day on Chatham Island near its northern point, which adjoins Strong Tide Island. Mrs. Kemp was sitting on the beach and saw a commotion in the water which threw a wash against the rocks similar to that caused by a motorboat.

When Mr. Kemp's attention was drawn to the monster, he stated it was clearly evident that it was some huge denizen of the deep unknown in gulf waters. As the party watched, the monster slid about ten feet of its head and body on to a rock and commenced to rub itself against the rough surface.

At this time Mr. Kemp judged it to be about 300 or 400 paces away and although he could not see it distinctly was able to view the entire length, which lay on the surface of the water. From where he stood he could plainly see its serrated back, which, near the tail, resembled the cutting edge of a saw. . . .

Mr. Kemp described its head as being oval shaped, as he was not able to see any distinguishing [features].

Major Langley described his experience as follows:

"On Sunday my wife and I went for a sail in the *Dorothy* around Discovery and Chatham Islands. It was a beautiful sunny day with a nice northerly breeze, and with that in our favor we successfully bucked the flood tide to Commodore Point and from then on made good time, although after entering Hare Strait we had, of course, to beat against a northerly breeze. On entering the passage between the north end of Chatham Island and Fulford Reef, the breeze lightened a bit and we were

proceeding almost on an even keel with the end of the flood tide under us when the incident happened which for brevity's sake is set out in the following numbered paragraphs:

"1—The time was about 1.30 p.m.

"2—We were not talking and we were proceeding quite slowly and silently when suddenly my attention was attracted by a very loud and remarkable noise, something between a grunt and a snort, accompanied by a huge hiss.

"3—I immediately looked ahead in the direction of the noise, at the same time shouting to my wife, and we both saw a huge object about 80 to 100 feet off, a little on the port bow and on the edge of the kelp just off the Chatham Island shore. It was only visible for a few seconds, but what both of us are absolutely agreed upon may be put down as follows:

"(a) It was every bit as big as the back of a large whale, but entirely different in many respects.

"(b) Its color was of a greenish brown. I should say a sort of dark olive green. It had markings along the top and ----. It seemed to be of a serrated nature.

"4—Its color was very distinct as the sun was shining brightly on its wetted surface and it was such a short distance away that there could be no mistaking it.

"5—Just shortly after it went down a ---- appeared on the surface of the water ahead of the *Dorothy*.

"6—My wife saw it break water a very short time afterwards on the other side of P----- Reef. The appearance was exactly similar, but it was much further away and had travelled fast.

"7—The only part of it that we saw was a huge ---- of what was apparently a portion of its back.

[He notes that he had past experience on a West Coast whaling ship when it killed three whales, humpback, blue and finback, and had seen a sperm whale at the whaling station. He did not see any similarity to what he saw near the Chatham Islands.]

MORE PEOPLE TELL OF SEEING SERPENT IN SEA NEAR HERE

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 6, 1933

A few various reports of alleged sea serpents are given.

W. B. Grant was fishing off the golf links point about ten years prior, when about 60 yards away “a huge head poked up . . . At first I thought it might be a walrus but then I discovered it had no tusks and was altogether too large. I should estimate that the head was between two feet and thirty inches wide. It had two eyes in the front and had whiskers. In general appearance it was very shaggy and it was brownish in color.”

MANY TO LOOK FOR SERPENT

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 7, 1933

SEA SERPENT UNREPORTED

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 10, 1933

Captain Arthur Slater of the Ss. *Princess Charlotte* noted he had seen an “ugly head and what appeared to be fins” before it submerged, during a recent storm as they neared Discovery Island. Many locals were out on the water, after the recent reports, hoping for a glimpse of the creature, but without luck.

CAMEL-FACED SEA SERPENT SAID EEL

Olympia, Washington, *Daily Olympian*, October 17, 1933

By Cleveland Williams

Seattle, Oct. 16—(AP)—Old Hiaschuckoluk, British Columbia’s camel-faced sea serpent, is a giant conger eel, says the fisherman’s school of thought now pondering the case of the monster reputed to compare favorably with a bad case of the “D.T.’s.”

Cagey scientists of the University of Washington and the British Columbia museum nodded sagely and said in effect: “It may be a conger eel, as they come in long sizes, and there are monsters in the ocean that science has not catalogued—but you catch him, and we’ll see.” They wouldn’t be quoted directly on sea serpents.

A. Davis stepped forward as perhaps the 15th veracious citizen to claim he saw the 80-foot monster, but he was more modest than the others—he said it was only

40 feet long. He told of seeing it off Vancouver island, as several others have recently—a camel-faced fellow, colored green and brown, placidly scratching its back on the rocks.

“It raised its head and body above the water in three distinct bends, showing it was quite 40 feet long,” he said. “I’m positive it was a large eel.” Further, he said, he saw it twice while fishing.

The last seven persons to report the serpent said it was 80 feet long. All agreed he dwarfs Ogopogo, the noted sea serpent of Okanogan lake. Almost 100 have reported on Ogopogo, including such varied sources as fishermen, miners, member of the legislature, Girl Scouts and Indian guides, putting him out of the class of monsters seen only by tourists investigating Canadian liquid resources since prohibition.

Davis and other fishermen have backing their eel theory, because Conger eels as long as seven feet have often been caught in these waters, and are preserved as trophies. The conger is a terrible looking fellow with an undershot jaw and bulldog teeth, and his face might be taken to look like a sheep, which Ogopogo is said to resemble, but not a camel. This divides British Columbia sea serpents into two classes, scientifically, the Ogopogo ovis, or sheep headed “whatisit,” and the Ogopogo camelis, or camel-headed nightmare.

Indians for many years have described Ogopogo, but they don’t know what it means. Hiaschuckoluk, the name of the camel-headed serpent for lack of a better, in the Chinook jargon of the Northwest Indians, means “big water snake,” and all witnesses agree it is what Hiaschuckoluk looks like.

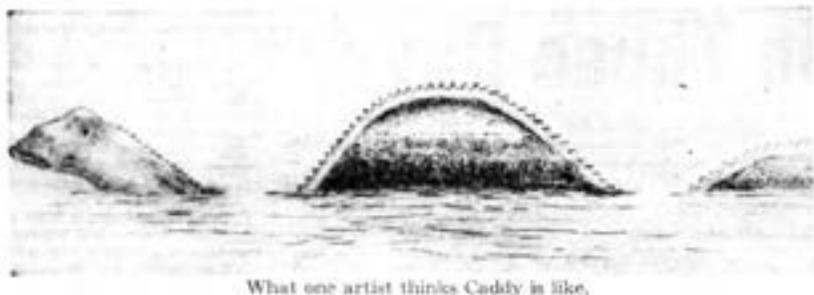
ROBBED OF “CADDY” FAME

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 4, 1937

Charles F. Eagles, in a letter to the editor, claimed, “When I discovered the monster in Cadboro Bay, I phoned O. H. Nelson of *The Colonist* editorial staff on October 14, 1933. A front page article appeared the

next morning. The original sketch was on view in *The Colonist* window for two weeks. I originated the name Cadborosaurus, and copyrighted the sketch and title in October, 1933. Also wrote 'The Story of Caddy' (Cadborosaurus), being a statement of facts, and copyrighted the whole feature. Permission in writing was given to *The Daily Colonist* to use the material for publicity purposes." . . .

Eagles was a local realtor and insurance man who established a tea room at Cadboro Bay. He was a cousin of John Barrymore, and a qualified medical practitioner. He died at age 66 in 1939, after a short illness (Victoria, B.C., *Times Colonist*, March 6, 1939). Unfortunately, I have not located an online newspaper archives that carries the issue with Eagles' account, but his sketch was reprinted numerous times over the years. His belief that he had come up with the name Cadborosaurus is suspect, in light of other narratives of the event by editor Archie Wills and others, who have pointed out that Archie chose the name after soliciting suggestions from the public.



The Charles F. Eagles sketch of Caddy

CADDY AND MR. EAGLES

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 6, 1937

G. Taylor, in a letter to the editor, noted he had queried the Copyright Office in Ottawa, which stated that Canada's Copyright Act "does not provide for registration of the names Cadborosaurus and Caddy as such." In a later letter to the editor, Eagles disagrees with this assessment, arguing that as a 'new word' it could be copyright.

WHO FIRST SAW SEA-SERPENT?

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 26, 1937

In another letter to the editor, Charles F. Eagles attempted to show that Cadborosaurus was first seen by Major and Mrs. Langley while cruising Chatham Island on October 1, 1933, and that what was seen by W. H. Kemp in 1932 was just a "huge sea-serpent with a flowing mane."

Major W. H. Langley (1868-1951) was a Victoria barrister who had 10 years experience with the 5th Regiment Coast Garrison Artillery, was captain of the 62nd Battalion from 1915, and served overseas from 1916 to 1918 (Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, Feb. 22, 1951).

SAYS SERPENT NOT CONGER EEL

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 17, 1933

F. W. Kemp, one of the first men to report seeing Caddy, stated, "The creature we saw off Chatham Island was no more like a conger eel than my hat, in spite of what our scientific gentlemen of British Columbia and Washington may say. I am not a scientist by a long shot, but I have never heard of a true conger eel being caught in the Pacific. They frequent the coastal water of Europe. I have caught a good many off the south coast of the Isle of Wight. I think R. G. Rhodes' letter in last night's *Times*, re Diplodocus, describes better what we saw than anything else. My first feelings on viewing the creature were of being transferred to a prehistoric period when all sorts of hideous creatures abounded. When the thing shoved its head on the rock it did so with a lifting movement which was not fishlike, but rather more like the movement of a huge lizard, the serrated back also bearing out this opinion."

CADBOROSAURUS IS SIGHTED AGAIN BY ISLAND RESIDENTS

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 17, 1933

Cadborosaurus, Victoria's famous serpent, was sighted near Chemainus over the weekend by three duck hunters. They saw the strange creature for a few moments.

The hunters who saw the creature . . . were Don Bellamy . . ., George Neil and Harry Olson, who were rowing to hunt ducks on the river flats, when they saw the monster lying on top of the water. As they approached, it

undulated once and disappeared, leaving a wake behind it resembling that of a speed boat. None of the men had their guns out of the cases, so no shots were fired.

Another interesting experience came from Jack Nord of Oyster River. Mr. Nord says:

“I have read in your paper about men seeing a sea serpent. I have seen one, too, but have kept my silence up until now about it. In ---- a friend of mine, Peter Anderson and I were returning from Cape Mudge to Menzies Bay. When abreast of Race Point I happened to look to my right, and there he was, laying on top of the water. I turned to Pete and said, ‘My god, Pete, what would you call that.’ He has never answered me yet. Pete dived into the cabin for his gun and two shells. The first shot fell short and the second went over the top owing to the motion of the boat and before Pete could get more shells the creature had submerged.

“It was about thirty-five yards from us, and we judged it to be about 100 to 110 feet long. The body we estimated was about two and a half feet in diameter. Its head was as large as a draught horse’s, but it looked more like a camel’s. It had fangs in the mouth, six to eight inches long. It’s eyes seemed to roll from a reddish to green. It had whiskers under its jaw and a kind of mane from its forehead to the back of its head looking like the teeth of a drag saw. A fin on its back raised to about three feet. From the water to the top of the head would be about seven feet. It sure was an ugly thing to see it. The shooting and the bullets landing near it did not seem to bother it.” . . .

WIDESPREAD SEARCH FOR CADBOROSAURUS

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 19, 1933

. . . Cadborosaurus . . . may be nursing a high-powered bullet from a 30-30 rifle in its neck, according to a story related by R. M. Elliott of Port Renfrew, who tells of seeing the serpent and firing at it while it was swimming down the West Coast.

. . . Mr. Elliott at the time was a lineman in the employ of the Dominion Telegraphs.

“I was working on the telegraph line at Slide Hill on Telegraph Trail between Jordan River and Port Renfrew at the time and was gathering some firewood to prepare a fire at mid-day,” Mr. Elliott writes. “I noticed an object about 200 yards out to sea, moving along at about three knots, headed for Jordan River and Victoria. It showed about eight feet of neck which, I should judge, was about two feet in diameter, resembling a giraffe’s head and neck. As it swam it appeared to be scrutinizing each side of the straits. The other portion of the body showing, indicated reptile formation, with four or five lumps, similar to those seen when a snake is swimming. I did not see any tail to it.

“I hurried to my shack, which was nearby on the beach, got my 30-30 rifle, with high powered bullets, and took a shot, aiming at the head and neck portion showing. I must have found a mark in some fairly tender spot by the actions which followed. It jumped, increasing its exposed neck length to about fifteen or sixteen feet, and lashed the water to such an extent that it reminded me of a steamer docking, when a kick back or --- is ordered. After it had quietened down a little, it proceeded on its course, swaying its head from one side to the other. After watching it as far as I could, my view was obstructed by a point projecting out to sea.

“When I first saw it, I thought it was a pile with a piece of lumber attached, or a piece of a wharf, washed or pulled out. It most certainly was not either of those from the action it displayed after my firing at it, and there was no mistaking it for the sea was calm at the time, and had been for days. I could not state the exact date of the month when I saw it, but it was during July 19-7. From the time I first noticed it to the time it was out of sight, I would judge to be about three-quarters of an hour.”

“CADDY” VISITED VANCOUVER INLET

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 20, 1933

Mrs. Edith Clark said she saw the sea monster near Vancouver, near the entrance to the north arm of Burrard Inlet, on August 6 last. From her summer cottage she thought she was looking at a school of blackfish, then saw a head like a big seal followed by three distinct humps. She said it was about three times the length of a rowboat.

SCIENTISTS, HISTORIANS DELVE IN SERPENT LORE

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, October 21, 1933

J. P. Howe reported that fourteen years prior, while sitting on the west side of Parksville Bay with some lady friends, they saw a huge monster enter the bay. It remained still for five or six minutes, about eighty yards out, giving one of the ladies time to run for some glasses and they were able to get a good look at it. It had a huge head and was very long.

COAST LINER'S OFFICERS VIEW 'SEA SERPENT'

Seattle, Washington, *Daily Times*, October 22, 1933

They serve “green devils” aboard the Grace Line’s “Santa” ships—while at sea—but that cool, green decoction had nothing to do with the sea serpent seen yesterday morning in the Strait of San Juan de Fuca by Capt. W. N. Prengel and First Officer A. E. Richards of the Santa Lucia. Both officers are teetotalers.

Docking here last evening, they confirmed news dispatches from Victoria, B.C., that they had seen a sea serpent between Clallam Bay and Sherringham Point, twenty-five miles east of Victoria.

“It was 6:30 to 6:40 o'clock in the morning,” First Officer Richards said, “and during my 4 to 8 o'clock watch, that I saw it. It was between the ship and the American shore and about 200 to 300 feet away.

“It was lying on the water and, as we came past, it lifted its head and looked the ship over. It had a face something like a sea cow. The head was about thirty-six inches broad and four and one-half feet long. The serpent was about ninety feet in length, sort of grayish, and

its body was a foot to fifteen or eighteen inches in diameter.

“The thing had a vicious tail and was lashing the water with it.”

Mr. Richards said the light wasn't good, but the serpent's body seemed to be more “eely” than “seal-like,” as to the texture of its skin.

He said he watched the monster in amazement, and then called Captain Prengel.

Captain Prengel said he reached the bridge in time to get a good view of the serpent before it dived.

Mr. Richards said he and Captain Prengel were sort of chary about mentioning that they had seen a sea serpent, because folks sort of smile.

He said he'd never before seen a sea serpent, but he had seen many strange things at sea at which landsmen scoff and disbelieve.

He said it was like the story of the sailor who came home and told his mother of streets paved with gold in India—and she believed him. But when the son told of flying fish, the old lady said, “Oh, yeah!” and stuff.

FAMED SEA SERPENT VIEWED BY HUNTER

La Grande, Oregon, *Observer*, December 6, 1933
Victoria, B.C., Dec. 6 (AP)—A view of “amy cadborosaurus,” Vancouver Island's famed sea serpent, from only 10 feet away was almost too much for a young duck hunter, but he lived to write about it.

His view of the creature (whatever it is) was the closest of the upwards of 30 or 40 reputable citizens who have reported seeing it in the past three months. Among them were Capt. W. N. Prengel and First Officer A. E. Richards of the Grace liner *Santa Lucia*, who reported sighting it in the gulf of Georgia.

In a letter to a Victoria newspaper, Cyril B. Andrews, 21, of Pender Harbor, related that he and another young companion, Norman Georgeson, were duck hunting last Sunday.

They had wounded a duck, and were paddling out to recover it, when the serpent appeared beside their boat and seized the bird.

“I was still only 10 feet away, when that thing, to my horror, gulped the bird down its throat,” Andrews wrote. “It then looked at me, its mouth wide open, and I could plainly see its teeth and tongue.”

Then, despite their rush to get their boat to shore, Andrews saw some more.

“Its coils rose at least six feet above me, gradually sinking under the water again. Its head was like that of a horse, but without ears or nostrils, and its eyes were in the front of the head, which was flat.

“I would swear to the head being three feet long and two feet wide.”

The creature’s breath came in “short, sharp pants, like a dog’s after a run.”

“Its length when I first saw it lying in the bay was fully 40 feet long, and from head to tail I would say it was all of that length as it appeared in front of me.

“Its thickness was between two and a half and three feet at the thickest part, gradually tapering to the tail, like a snake. In color it was a brownish grey, the skin smooth, with no spikes or fins whatever. It swam with its head breaking water.”

Eleven other persons, Andrews wrote, including G. G. Parkyn, justice of the peace, saw the creature.

BATTLE OF SEA-SERPENT AND GULLS SEEN BY TRIO

Albany, Oregon, *Democrat Herald*, January 10, 1934
Victoria, B. C., Jan. 10.—Glistening brown-black creatures 30 feet in length are “Amy” and “Pender,” the sea serpents whose sudden emergencies from the deep have startled scores of residents along the British Columbia coast.

That there are two of the “sea monsters,” was testified today by the experience of three reputable Oak Bay,

B. C., residents who reported watching a female of the species battle a flock of sea gulls in the waters of Shoal bay.

For four minutes Charles and Earl Marsh and J. W. Chilton watched the fight.

“We noticed numerous seagulls flying near the shore,” they said. “Suddenly a big brown-black head rose about three feet from the waters and the sea gulls set up a terrific commotion.

“Many of the birds pecked at the sleek body of the serpent. Suddenly we saw the monster reach out and devour some of its tormenters with a single snap of its camel-like head. The sea gulls continued to scream and peck.

“Three of the serpent’s coils glistened as it rose higher from the water and lashed out at its hecklers. Tiring of the battle, the beast settled slowly back into the water, leaving only an eddy of swirling waves and a flock of madly-screeching gulls as a reminder of its sudden appearance.”

The creature, christened “Pender” because of its presence near Pender island, was believed to have been the female of “Amy,” the sea serpent which Major and Mrs. W. H. Langley saw from their yacht several months ago.

“Amy,” the male of the species which scientists temporarily called “Cadborosaurus,” after nearby Cadboro bay, has a comb perched atop his mammoth crown, according to those who have seen him. “Pender” lacks the serrated back and ornamented head of her somewhat larger mate.

Each week brings new affidavits from residents who claim to have seen either “Amy” or “Pender” frolicking in the waters which wash this coast.

SEA-SERPENT STOCK GYRES AND GIMBLES IN THE MART

Detroit, Michigan, *Free Press*, January 10, 1934

. . . Amy, the monster of Cadboro Bay, is a long way from

deflation, however. Her latest demonstration of actuality was reported Tuesday by Del Marsh, Victoria pharmacist; and his brother Early, assistant accountant of the Canadian Pacific Railway's British Columbia service, and J. W. Chilton, a student. They swear to have witnessed the beast eating off Gonzales Point.

"There were about 20 seagulls sitting on the water about 400 yards off shore, Del Marsh said. "All of a sudden, there was a commotion among them and a large head came about three feet out of the water. The seagulls started pecking at it and the serpent grabbed one of them and swallowed it.

"The gulls persisted and the serpent's complexion was suffering so much she had to dive. She came up again and the seagulls followed, so she headed out to sea.

"I should say we watched the serpent for nearly eight minutes. She had a head like a camel. There were coils out of the water. The bumps were smooth and glistened in the sun. I would estimate that it was over 30 feet long from the head to the last hump but we did not see the tail. Its back was not serrated and was a blackish brown in color." . . .

SEA SERPENT AGAIN SIGHTED GEORGIA SOUND

Salem, Oregon, *Capital Journal*, February 22, 1934
Nanaimo, B.C., Feb. 22 (UP)—Amy, the sea serpent, appeared at Gabriola island Thursday and was watched for many minutes by Jerry Hynek, F. F. Smith and Jim Yarda, they reported here today.

They had just beached their boat, they said, when they heard a hissing noise, and looking seaward saw "Amy" swimming through the water close to shore, at a speed estimated by Nynek of about 10 knots an hour.

"We were certainly excited," Smith said. "We ran along the beach, and if you don't believe me I'll show you our tracks. The serpent, or whatever you like to call it, broke water again after traveling about 150 feet under

water. Each time it came up with a hissing noise. It came up at least 10 times before it disappeared around the end of the island.

“Every time it came up it made that hissing noise. It seemed to me it came up to the surface for air, traveled a short distance and submerged again.”

All three said the serpent had a head shaped like a horse, a neck about 20 inches thick. Hynek, who admitted he had never believed the sea serpent stories before, said it appeared like a monster eel, except for the shape of the head and the fact that it was spotted with reddish brown spots.

AMY SEA SNAKE PEAKS INTO BOAT

Spokane, Washington, *Chronicle*, March 5, 1934
Victoria, B. C., March 3. (AP)—Well, folks, here’s the sea serpent again.

“I was trolling near the middle of Ross bay when a thing appeared astern of the boat, about 40 feet away, looking directly at me,” R. R. Fletcher reported.

“The head and neck were extended for at least four feet all the time. The head was shaped like that of a shark. The neck was about 18 inches in diameter.”

HUGE SEA SERPENT RETURNS TO FORMER HAUNTS WITH MATE

Muskogee, Oregon, *Daily Phoenix*, August 29, 1934
Victoria, B. C., Aug. 28—(UP)—Waterfront residents who specialize in the terrifying experience of seeing “Caddy” a 50-foot monster sea serpent tonight compared notes and decided that the serpent has returned to British Columbia waters with a mate.

Sea serpent reports have spread several times within the past four days. Two such reports placed a serpent on the Victoria waterfront and off Penda island at the same time.

When the eyewitnesses compared notes, they concluded that “Caddy” has found a companion to share

some submarine cavern with him. They promptly named the newcomer "Penda."

Other conclusions drawn from the eyewitness reports indicated that "Caddy" who apparently has been on a vacation in southern waters since his first appearance here last October has had his engines overhauled.

"He covered a 500-yard stretch on the waterfront in three seconds," one eyewitness said. "He left a broad and frothy wake. His long, eely neck rose 12 feet above the water."

Such speed was not attributed to "Penda." She appeared in plain sight of a boat of fishermen. Unlike "Caddy" she has no comb atop the camel-shaped head. She is 30 feet long.

While "Caddy" is spangled in red and brown, "Penda" is solid brown and her back is smooth, whereas "Caddy" is serrated like a washboard. . . .

AMY'S NO BLIMP; SEA SERPENTS DUE TO WARM WEATHER!

Eugene, Oregon, *Guard*, September 17, 1934

. . . Mrs. Knox, the wife of Colonel Knox, quartermaster at Vancouver Barracks, was the fifth American to see Amy. . . . Mrs. Knox was positive about what she saw yesterday. She said:

"Mrs. L. Bullock-Webster and I were walking along with our dogs on the beach near Oak Bay golf links, when we saw this monster. For about 15 minutes we watched it as it swam around. It was about two city blocks from shore. Its head was not unlike that of a horse, and it was dark in color." . . .

Scientists of British Columbia and Washington state have called attention to the unusually hot weather and warm currents prevailing off the Pacific coast. Tuna fish have even been caught off Puget Sound, having been lured north under the impression they were heading for California, so some of them said the sea-serpents might have had the same idea—but none of them want to be quoted.

“You catch a sea-serpent and we’ll see about it,” they all say.

John Green (1983), well known today for his Bigfoot research, noted several early articles of sea serpents from the archives of the *Sidney Review*. He does mistakenly state that Archie Wills “takes credit” for inventing Caddy; Wills took credit for naming Caddy, not inventing the creature.

Sept. 12, 1934: “Early Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, Miss May Williams was awakened by a great commotion in the water at a point north of the Bradley-Dyne Estate, at Patricia Bay, North Saanich, and going to the bedroom window observed a sight that for a time seemed hard to comprehend.

“Some 300 feet away from the window at a point about 200 feet from the shore was a giant snake-like monster battling with a large number of black ducks that usually rest peacefully on the bay’s quiet waters!

“Miss Williams then glanced at her clock to ascertain the time—which was seven or eight minutes to six—in order to know how long she would be viewing this strange sight! She says that the monster was in sight for approximately 15 minutes, and that she had a very clear view of its head and four or five coils.

“The head was like that of a giant snake, about twice the size of the neck, and was raised four or five feet above the water, the coils were arched similar to the common ‘measuring worm’ we are all familiar with, each coil being separated by about 10 feet of a submerged section, while the exposed ‘coils’ were about five or six feet in length, the thickness of the humps or coils, as near as could be judged, were about two or three feet, the tail not being visible, but allowing 10 feet for the tail the serpent would approximately measure from 70 to 80 feet in length. The color was dark.

“The ducks finally decided to move to other parts and as they left the monster made off also, traveling in the direction of Saltspring Island, at an amazing speed.”

“CADDY” SEEN OFF BARKLEY

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, April 5, 1935

Port Alberni, April 5—Appearance in Barkley Sound of

a sea serpent, which may be Victoria's famous "Caddy," is the chief topic of conversation among West Coast salmon fishermen. It has been seen on three different occasions by three different fishermen, all of whom had close-up views.

Jack Patterson first saw the serpent several weeks ago when he was trolling in the channel near Nettle Island. He thought at first it was a cedar tree with its wide butt showing high above the water, but when it dove suddenly and reappeared closer to the boat, showing its horse-like head, Mr. Patterson pulled in his lines and left. Fearing the ridicule of his fellow fishermen, he said nothing of the incident until recently.

An Indian next ran across the serpent and had a fairly good view as it sported in the water a short distance from his boat, but it remained for a Swedish fisherman to give the best description of the strange animal. He chased it for half an hour with his trolling launch and was at times so close that he was able to make a sketch of the head which resembles that of a horse with a long, under-curved upper lip like that of a camel.

The body was similar to a huge snake with the addition of large flapper fins, and it wriggled under the water much as a snake does when swimming. He judged its total length to be about thirty feet. For the greater part of the time the serpent was submerged a foot or two below the water as it swam ahead of the boat, but at times it would lift its head clear of the surface and would also break water with its fins. Its color was described as slate grey. . . .

AND ANOTHER SEA SERPENT MAKES ITS BOW

Des Moines, Iowa, *Register*, April 26, 1935

Seattle, Wash. (AP)—Another tale of a strange sea denizen, this time a creature which one observer said looked like a monkey when it blinked, was brought to the Seattle waterfront Thursday by the crew of a fishing boat.

Made credulous by the many stories of a sea serpent

supposedly inhabiting Puget Sound, the fishermen told how they encountered the queer looking object of marine life off Vancouver island.

Capt. Fred Hovick, master of the fishing schooner Bolinda and its crew of six men, vowed they sighted the freak Apr. 16, and were all "cold sober, without a drop of liquor on the boat."

"It was of ashen gray with a round head like a man and very small eyes," related the skipper.

The crew prepared a lasso to capture the queer looking fellow, but he disappeared beneath the waves before we could launch a boat.

"However, he reappeared three different times astern. I judge he was from 12 to 15 feet in length.

"I have been in all parts of Alaska and as far south as Panama and never saw anything like it before."

CADBOROSAURUS SIGHTED AGAIN

Victoria, B. C., *Daily Times*, April 27, 1935

Cadborosaurus has been seen again, and this time by Major J. A. P. Crompton . . .

Major Crompton saw 'Caddy' silhouetted against the bright sunset on a calm sea just between Brothers Island and the mainland.

"There was a disturbance in the water 450 yards from where I was standing," he said. "I thought it might have been ducks—I am always looking for birds. Then, suddenly, 'Caddy' appeared, with his neck and three humps black against the bright water."

The major can judge distances accurately as he does a great deal of boating. It was thirty-two feet, he said, from the front of the sea serpent's neck to the back of his last hump.

The neck was almost erect and stood six feet above the water, and was at least two feet six inches thick. He could not see the head at all and therefore surmised it was small compared with the rest of the monster's body.

The humps were each three feet six inches long and

stood about two and one-half feet above the water. There was no spout when the sea serpent appeared—he did not blow out any water like a whale.

He was traveling at sixteen miles per hour in a southeasterly direction, Major Crompton declared.

“I watched him for about two minutes and I made all the mental notes I could,” he said. “And as soon as I returned to my house I wrote them down. There was a tremendous wash, like a speed boat, behind the animal, but there were no undulations. He charged through the water like a submarine with its conning tower awash.”

Major Crompton is a trained naturalist and has been interested in the study of animal life from the days of his youth.

Quatsino, April 27.—Victoria’s famous ‘Caddy’ was seen here a few days ago by the MacMillan family of Koprino Harbor, and by some of the men from Harvey Hansen’s camp, also of Koprino. Mr. MacMillan stated that it was about thirty feet long, with two distinct humps.

“CADDY” MAY HAVE RETURNED

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 6, 1936

An unusual sea mammal, which, from the description of those who saw it, was not unlike *Cadborosaurus*, Victoria’s famed sea serpent which has not been sighted for more than a year, was seen at Taylor’s Beach, Metchosin, by C. L. Harrison, city prosecutor, and George H. Deane, inspector of city schools, yesterday morning.

While Mr. Harrison and Mr. Deane will not vouch for the fact that what they saw was “Caddy” they both said it was something they had never seen before and it was “certainly unusual.”

Mr. Harrison is convinced what he and Mr. Deane saw was not a seal, porpoise, shark or sea lion.

They saw no head to the animal, but only a portion of the body which was hunched out of the water and moved toward William Head at a speed similar to that of a killer whale.

“I would not say it was Cadborosaurus as I have never put a great deal of stock in the Cadborosaurus story, but I am certain it was something I have never seen before,” Mr. Harrison said.

With Mr. Deane he stood at the door of C. E. Whitney-Griffith’s cabin, “Ferncliffe,” at Metchosin and watched the animal while it rose out of the water four or five times. Mr. Harrison sighted it first and watched it for some time before calling Mr. Deane’s attention to it.

“We saw it rise several times as it went towards William Head,” Mr. Harrison said. “It struck me that it might have been a deformed animal as all we saw was what looked like a boulder protruding out of the water. It had not attributes of a snake but I could judge it to be quite a large animal. The hump we saw was about two feet out of water.

Visibility at the beach was perfect and there was no mistaking the sight, Mr. Harrison said. It was between 8.30 and 9 o’clock in the morning, the sea was calm and the sky was clear. The animal was between 200 and 300 feet from shore.

“There was no fin visible and we could see no sign of a mouth, which might indicate it was a large seal,” he said. “The animal was apparently a stranger to ducks as it caused quite a commotion among them as it proceeded on its way.

Neither Mr. Deane nor Mr. Harrison would say the animal was “Caddy,” but from a diagram with Mr. Harrison drew, the hump which he saw resembled diagrams drawn by many other persons, some of who have sworn they saw “Caddy.”

FIVE PEOPLE SEE “CADDY”

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 16, 1936
Cadborosaurus, Victoria’s famed sea-serpent, was reported seen again by five people yesterday evening. It was darting along over the surface of Ross Bay, plunging beneath the water, then humping up again, with spray flying from its head and tail, they said.

They were Mr. and Mrs. William White . . . and Phyllis White, their twenty-year-old daughter, who followed it in their car for some distance, and finally saw it disappearing off Clover Point; and Mrs. L. K. Poyntz, and her daughter Margaret Poyntz . . . who sighted the seaserpent at Clover Point.

“I saw Caddy at about 5.30 o’clock in the evening from our house, which is right on the sea,” said Mr. White. “It was about 100 yards away. I could see the outline of its head, and it was rather like a goat’s, with a beard. We jumped into our car and followed it some distance. We stopped at the Ross Bay cemetery and saw it again. Finally it disappeared off Clover Point, heading out to sea.

“It moved along like a snake. Three humps would appear, then disappear under the water. Then three humps would appear again.”

Mrs. White said: “Mr. White called out that he had seen Caddy, so I came running out of the house, but I could not see anything. I stood on the rock for some time. I was determined to see him. Then he came up, with spray flying from his head and tail. He was just like what the other people had seen.”

Mrs. Poyntz and Margaret’s description of *Cadborosaurus* tallied with that of the Whites. They saw it disappearing in the direction of Sooke.

THREE MORE SEE CADBOROSAURUS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 17, 1936

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Dawe of “Cote d’Azur,” Uplands, and Joe Smith, who is gardener at the adjoining residence of Carl Pfender, had a wonderful view of “Caddy” for five minutes this morning.

Mr. Dawe’s lovely home is on the waterfront near the entrance to Cadboro Bay, after which *Cadborosaurus* was named. Early this morning Mrs. Dawe saw a strange object in the water close to their shoreline. She called her husband, who rushed to the nearby point with a powerful pair of binoculars.

“I sailed the seas for twelve years and I’ve seen all kinds of sea creatures,” said Mr. Dawe this morning, “but I’ve never seen anything like this extraordinary creature. It came up off the point about 500 feet away and I had a splendid view with my glasses. It had something like a camel’s head, and had three distinct undulations. It would dive and then come to the surface and ‘blow.’ When I heard the ‘blow’ I thought it might be a black fish [orca] and I studied it closer. But it was no black fish and it wasn’t a porpoise or sea lion. It seemed to be feeding and stayed off our place five minutes, then dove and disappeared. Sure I believe there’s a ‘Caddy’.”

CADDY VISITS CLOVER POINT

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 24, 1936

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Robertson . . . reported that while taking a sunbath yesterday afternoon on the rocks at Clover Point, just off Dallas Road, they saw what they believe to be *Cadborosaurus* swim across the water of Ross Bay.

“He was so close we could see the scaly fins on his coils,” said Mr. Robertson.

A boy who had been the first to spot the sea serpent when he had been further in the bay near Dallas Road, came rushing up, out of breath, from the retaining wall along the cemetery front.

The sea serpent was moving in towards the Clover Point boathouse, which is on the Ross Bay side of the point.

Mr. Robertson said that suddenly to the amazement of the three, the creature made a dash, a long neck came out of the water and stretched forward, and the jaws of the serpent were opened to snap on a duck.

Too quick for Caddy, however, the duck ducked.

Then with a swirl of his coils, Caddy turned and, heading out into the Straits, disappeared.

“I never in all my experience saw anything like it,” said Mr. Robertson, who is a hard-rock miner, working for years at Stewart, B.C., and in other northern B.C. districts. “I wouldn’t have believed it if I hadn’t seen it.

There is no room left for doubt about Caddy, the sea serpent, once you have seen him as the three of us did." . . .

CAPTAIN AGAIN SIGHTS "CADDY"

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 14, 1936

Vancouver, July 14.—Captain Alex Stewart of Ss. Kingsley, which arrived here over the weekend, today reported seeing Victoria's "Cadborosaurus" in the vicinity of Tatoosh, Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Captain Stewart said "Caddy" was about half a mile distant, the head rising about ten feet above the surface, the rest of the body trailing in coils about ninety feet further astern. He said his third mate saw the creature first and drew his attention to it.

Captain Stewart reported seeing "Caddy" twice before.

"CADDY" AND WIFE BOB UP AGAIN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 21, 1936

Cadborosaurus . . . was seen Wednesday off the Dallas Road waterfront by Mrs. I. W. Rogers . . ., who watched him cruising with a mate for ten minutes.

Mrs. Rogers is quite positive of what she saw, and says there was no mistaking the famous serpent's features and those of his companion.

She watched them for several minutes while near Horseshoe Bay about 2.30 o'clock, just after the Ss. *Princess Kathleen* had passed en route to Vancouver.

"The sea was perfectly calm at the time," she said. "When the boat passed it apparently disturbed the under waters, for it was only a short time after that 'Caddy' and his mate appeared.

"I could not judge their lengths, as the whole body was not visible, but from the descriptions I have read in the papers I am quite sure it was 'Caddy'.

"The heads were the shape of a horse's. They did not travel fast, as they just appeared to be cruising idly around after the ship had disturbed the water.

“I have spent many days on the waterfront, and I must admit that I had been somewhat skeptical about ‘Caddy,’ since I had never seen him before. I made no mistake yesterday, though, and I am very sure what I saw was the ‘Caddy’.” . . .

“CADDY” SEEN HERE AGAIN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, September 14, 1936
. . . Mrs. E. Harker put up the blinds in her house at the foot of Olympia Avenue this morning as Cadborosaurus was undulating past. . . .

Mrs. Harker watched the Cadborosaurus through field glasses and claims she saw the fins on his back. His head, she says, was in the water. . . .

“CADDY” SEEN OFF NANAIMO

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 9, 1937
. . . The serpent was described by Captain M. A. Corfield, master of the Nanaimo tugboat, *Solander*, as about thirty feet long, light grey in color and with a hide similar to that of an alligator. A small flabby fin runs the entire length of its back.

Captain Corfield, his engineer, L. K. Wiseman of Victoria, and George Fogden, Nanaimo, said they saw “Caddy” Thursday afternoon. It appeared on the surface four times then raced past a boom of logs the tug was towing and disappeared into Osborne Bay off Crofton.

EXPLANATION FOR “CADDY”

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 13, 1937
Percy Barnhart, curator of the biological collection at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography asserted that sea serpents like Caddy are nothing more than oarfish. Dr. W. A. Clemens of the Dominion Biological Station at Departure Bay, B.C., disagreed that oarfish matched the descriptions given for Caddy, noting that he thought a school of sea lions was more likely.

“CADDY” IN OTHER PARTS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 8, 1937

In a letter to the editor, Charles F. Eagles noted that a retired naval officer of his acquaintance, who had been stationed in Singapore for some years, “claimed he had seen similar monsters at least two dozen times, while cruising in the Dutch East Indies among the islands around Borneo.” . . .

TUGBOAT CREW SIGHTS “CADDY”

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 30, 1937

Cadborosaurus . . . was described by the crew of Vancouver Barge Transportation Company’s *Etta Mac* as “a friendly, homely thing, striped brown and yellow, with a warm and friendly eye.”

Sailors on the tugboat reported they had seen “Caddy” off Gabriola Island in the Gulf of Georgia. They said the monster had a mouth that appeared full of teeth and a body eighteen inches thick.

“CADDY” SEEN BY LOCAL RESIDENTS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 4, 1937

Four residents sighted “the head and part of the body” of Caddy off the Jordan River road. One witness said it “resembled a glorified green garter snake.” It appeared for only a minute after causing a commotion when it broke the surface of the water.

CADBOROSAURUS IS BACK AGAIN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, September 2, 1937

. . . Alfred Rumney . . . came to *The Times* office shortly before noon to say he had watched the serpent disport himself off Saxe point, Esquimalt, for the best part of an hour this morning.

“We got to Saxe Point Park about 9, and 20 minutes later my wife called me and said ‘What’s that?’” Mr. Rumney recounted. “I looked out to sea, and when it came up again I saw it was a big monster.

“It had three coils, and one of them was about two foot six in diameter.

“We saw it several times from 9.20 to about 10.15. It turned out to sea, but there was a big tramp steamer coming out of Victoria and a tug going the other way about the same time. I guess they turned it back. . . . It came right in to the edge of the seaweed, about 200 yards from the shore. . . .

“It had a head like a horse or a cow, but without ears.”

Mr. Rumney was positive that what he had seen could not have been a school of blackfish.

“I had always put it down as a hoax or a publicity stunt before—but not now,” he said.

CADBOROSAURUS AT MILL BAY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, December 17, 1937

. . . Mr. and Mrs. George Carroll of Nanaimo said they were part of a large crowd who watched “Caddy” playing with a log in Mill Bay, a few miles north of Victoria.

They said its long neck and two fins at the back of its head were easily discernible.

QUEER NEW SEA SERPENT POPS UP AT COAST

Regina, Saskatchewan, *Leader Post*, July 10, 1937

Victoria, July 10—Queen Charlotte Islands off the northern midcoast mainland of British Columbia tonight popped into the sea serpent claims column with report of a baby “caddy.” But it won’t grow up to join its Victoria cousin. It was found in a whale.

From C. H. Rhodes, engineer on a whaling vessel at Naden in the Queen Charlotte group, came the report of finding the infant sea reptile.

In a letter to his wife here, the engineer described the find which he said tallied with the many descriptions of Victoria’s cadborosaurus, horse-headed sea serpent reported seen in waters off the southern tip of Vancouver island for the past few years.

“Seeing is believing,” wrote Mr. Rhodes. “They have taken out of one of the whales brought in recently a small sized ‘caddy’ that tallies remarkably with the many

descriptions of Victoria's famed cadborosaurus. This creature, believed to be a young individual of the same species, is between six and seven feet long."

It has a square, horse-like head, and an unusual kind of dragon-like flippers on its sides. It has a long snake-like body, terminating in a fringed tail.

Whaling company officials were non-committal about the find except to say it would be sent to the British Columbia museum at Victoria for identification.



Remains of serpent-like creature found in stomach of sperm whale taken off the Queen Charlotte Islands. Authorities differ on its identification.

The Naden Harbor carcass, from a 1950 paper.
See Bauer and Russell (1993-1996) for discussion.

SEA SERPENT SEEN AT SUMMER RESORT

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 23, 1938

. . . Albert Ward of Sidney and his father, Charles Ward, contractor, with Mr. and Mrs. H. B. McLean of Vancouver, watched a strange sea serpent speeding about Deep Cove about 400 yards from the shore.

Albert Ward said the sea serpent was between 30 and 40 feet in length and was traveling fast, leaving a silver streak behind him. It resembled a great eel, he said, and bore no resemblance to a sea lion or blackfish.

SEA SERPENT CLAIM AT VANCOUVER

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 12, 1938

Vancouver (CP)—There's a sea serpent in Burrard Inlet, according to Dorothy Burniston and George Wragg, who

claim they saw one of the monsters near West Vancouver last night.

“It was 50 feet long,” Miss Burniston said, but only “20 feet” according to Wragg.

The couple said they were standing on the West Vancouver wharf when the serpent bobbed up out of the water 50 feet away.

“You could see the humps sticking out of the water. It looked just like the cartoons I’ve seen of Caddy,” she said. . . .

Miss Burniston added the monster disappeared when a tugboat passed by. She said it appeared to be coming into the harbor.

Wragg said he first thought it was “one of those Vancouver rowing boats with eight men in it.”

“It made a lot of noise and looked like a snake,” he said. . . .

CADBOROSAURUS, PRODIGAL, RETURNS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 10, 1939

. . . [Cadborosaurus] was seen first by E. C. Jamieson, who runs the Terminus Grocery at Foul Bay. . . .

“I was delivering an order at 2048 Penzance Road. When I was coming away I saw this thing about a quarter of a mile away over the Chinese cemetery.

“I should say it was going at least 35 knots.

“It seemed 20 to 30 yards long. I thought at first it was a school of dolphins—I’ve seen dolphins before—but the bumps of this thing were too regular. Dolphins are not so regular as that.

“It had a head and about five bumps showing. The bumps were almost black.

“The landlord of the lady I was delivering to also saw it, and we climbed up on a fence to see better.

“It was too far away to see what the head looked like, but I could see there was something sticking up in front that was not round. The bumps were round.”

Mr. Jamieson said the “bumps” looked like coils of a long slender body rather than fins.

“Caddy” was in sight for 5 or 10 minutes, then vanished suddenly, he said.

EXPEDITION TO HUNT FOR B. C. SEA MONSTER

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 26, 1939

An expedition was being organized by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Prince Rupert to hunt the sea monster and capture it for relocation to a saltwater lake or kill it for taxidermy and display.

CADDY GIVES NURSES SCARE

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, June 27, 1940

. . . It fell to the lot of Miss Vivian Knight, former Victoria girl, to rediscover the elusive marine monster disporting in English Bay, Vancouver’s beach resort. . . .

The playful monster surprised the bathers at English Bay Sunday evening. Miss Knight was on the beach watching Miss Audrey Macaulay of Courtenay, Vancouver Island, and Miss Freda Perry, of Vancouver, swimming a short distance off shore. They are nurses at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver. “The girls were not swimming very far out, but where they couldn’t touch bottom,” says Miss Knight.

The monster showed its horrendous head on the north side of the diving board. “It was very large. We were all too excited to note all its characteristics. It appeared to have a large round head and there was a sharp fin on the body. The girls saw it while they were swimming, and said it was an awful thing.”

“The body only came up once, quickly, but the head was up all the time. In the half-light it seemed to be a sort of gray color.”

SEES STRANGE SEA ANIMAL—CADDY?

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, October 12, 1940

. . . Fishing between Shoal Bay and Trial Island Thursday [Walter Pratley] sighted what he believes may be Caddy.

“When I caught sight of it,” he says, “I did not stay around staring at it for very long. The water was deserted

except for me and I decided that was no place to stay, so I beat a hasty retreat.”

Hearing what sounded like labored breathing, he glanced in that direction and about 100 yards away saw a sea animal of a type he could not recognize although he was familiar with most types of Pacific coast sea animals. Protruding from the water at the end of a long neck was a bulky head. At the nape of the neck the body was partly submerged and there followed a distinct hump. There were no humps visible, but the fisherman could see movement in the water some distance in the rear which he took to be the rest of the body.

EXTRA! SERPENT OF SEA SIGHTED IN VICTORIA AREA

Bremerton, Washington, *Sun*, March 31, 1941

. . . Sergeant C. D. Peterson said today he, his wife and his 16-year-old son had seen *Cadborosaurus*—the famed sea serpent spotted by yachtsmen and picnickers in Victoria waters several times each year.

Peterson said he sighted the monster from his 26-foot cruiser, about 200 yards off the mouth of Victoria harbor yesterday afternoon. He said he was going to ram it, but his wife’s screams caused him to veer away.

He described the creature as being 30 feet long, with a head like a horse.

CADDY AGAIN POPS UP OFF ISLAND

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 3, 1941

. . . Sighting of “Caddy” was told of today by T. Liston, cod fisherman of nearby Brechin, who saw the strange creature “shaped like a seal, but with a much longer neck,” while fishing in the Gulf of Georgia, June 23. He said the creature was about 20 feet long and six or seven feet in diameter at the thickest part of the body. It had a two-foot fin on its back.

On sighting the creature Liston went to within 100 yards and “Caddy” dived and came up 40 feet away.

“He (Caddy) swam toward my boat,” Liston said. “When he was within 15 feet of it I became a little timid, but I still wanted to get a real good look at him.

“Well, he got a good look at me, too, then swam slowly away.”

MONTE ROBERTS (column)

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 13, 1963

. . . One of the more intriguing Caddy letters I’ve received is from a Duncan lady who has seen Caddy’s ‘offspring’ but has kept silent about it for over 20 years, for fear of ridicule.

So I’ll keep her name to myself as she writes:

“It was one very hot afternoon about the second week in August 1941, when my son and I were rowing over from Moses Beach to the government wharf at Deep Cove, Saanich. Almost halfway over I was trailing my hands in the tepid water when I spied a long object lying on the surface, sleeping.

“It had a film over its eyes which quickly uncovered when it saw the boat or heard the noise of the rowlocks.

“The eyes were brown and the goat-shaped head had little ears—color was deep tan, lighter by far than the eyes. When I saw it first it was about 10 or 12 feet from the boat and was stretched fully four feet long on the surface. I didn’t see the end of its tail.

“When it awoke, it came immediately into action by raising its head and making two humps along its back. It travelled at no leisurely speed, I can tell you. Seemed the wiggle of the humps made it go forward.

“While I was calling to my son to look quickly, the object disappeared and the only thing my son saw were the swirls in the water where the creature went under.

“I am sure what I saw was a ‘baby Caddy’.”

CADDY AGAIN!

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 3, 1942

Courtenay (CP)—The approach of spring has brought the latest report of Cadborosaurus . . . this time from

Balmoral Beach, near Comox, on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

H. J. Hatt of Comox said that while standing in front of George Ellis' cottage on Balmoral Beach Sunday he saw what he thought was a big seal.

"Then I looked again and about 10 feet behind it, I saw a hump sticking out of the water, quite big and distinct. What was the head like? Well, like the pictures you see of prehistoric monsters. With a thin neck. No, I could not mistake it for a seal. It was too big and what about the hump behind it? The creature was moving, coming toward us swimming parallel to the beach and at one time was not more than 200 yards out. There was no mistaking the head and hump belong to the same creature."

Mr. Hatt said the creature moved along at about 20 miles an hour.

Morris (1972): "In April, 1942, [Caddy] was seen off Estevan Point. When in the same year a Japanese submarine shelled this desolate point, the fishermen of the area were certain that the Japanese had been firing at Caddy, having mistaken him for a secret new Canadian weapon."

Spring is Here—Caddy, Too; Sea Serpent Basks in Moon

Olympia, Washington, *Daily Olympian*, April 1, 1943
. . . Caddy's latest booster to break into print is Dorothy Kynnersley, of Victoria, who says that Caddy not only exists but has kind, intelligent eyes. She has seen him more than once, she says, around Satellite Cove, and he's not a bit ferocious—only a little playful. Once, she insists, he wanted to climb right over a cliff to get better acquainted with her.

"I have seen Caddy at least seven times through binoculars, but close too, with excellent, undilated eyesight—and this I am ready to swear to," she says.

"I awoke one night and went out on my veranda to enjoy the quiet and brilliant beauty. I saw the cove beach

below me full of silver. This was Caddy, taking a beach moonbath. He was about 30 inches in diameter with a long tapering neck.

“He began to lift his foremost fold eight or 10 feet towards the cliff, slowly uncoiling some of the rest of himself. Though I wanted to see more of him, I felt that 60 feet of sea serpent would soon surmount the 15 feet of cliff so I went back in.” . . .

[While this was published on April 1, Dorothy wrote her story out several times over the years, so this was not an April Fool’s joke.]

STORM OF PROTESTS OVER RAMMING CADDY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 21, 1943

. . . The controversy over “Caddy” developed out of a recent fishing trip by Ernest (Lucky) Lee, Brentwood fishing guide, who was trolling with Winnipeg visitors in Mackenzie Bay for salmon.

“We sighted the monster about 7 in the evening,” said Mr. Lee. “It’s head was under water when we first saw it. It had two or three humps on its back and I saw what looked to be an oval fin.

“When it raised its head it appeared to be wounded, for I distinctly saw a white mark at the back of the head. It appeared to be inanimate, and at no time did it thresh the water. It had a bottle-like neck, and the head resembled that of a horse.

“At first I thought it was a blackfish or shark, but on closer inspection it was too long for that. I should judge it was about 35 feet overall.”

Lee emphatically denied that he deliberately went out to capture Cadborosaurus.

“We came upon the monster unexpectedly while we were fishing off McCurdy Point,” he said.

“It was swimming in circles, and could not keep its head under water for more than a minute at a time.

“I went on fishing, and after an hour I picked up Jack Gilbert at Moodyville, and after getting abeam of McCurdy Point, we again sighted the monster.

“We drove the boat full speed and rammed it, hitting it in the neck. It dived for a minute, and then surfaced again.

“The second time we hit it the monster caused the boat to heave almost out of the water. The monster did not rise again.”

“I hope it does turn up again,” said Lee, when asked if he expected ‘Caddy’ would be heard of again. “Personally I don’t believe ‘Caddy’ exists as most people seem to think of him. But we certainly encountered something unusual in the form of a sea monster.” . . .

CADDY REAPPEARS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, December 19, 1945
. . . Young Tom Plimley saw Caddy today at Cordova Bay. His mother, Mrs. P. Plimley, also saw Victoria’s famed sea monster, and so did neighbors along the Cordova Bay waterfront, she said.

“It certainly might be Caddy,” Mrs. Plimley said. “It’s camel-colored. It has a head such as has been drawn in pictures of Cadborosaurus. Then there is a long neck, and a broad hump showing above the water. It looks quite long. You can’t see all of it when it comes up, but it leaves a long mark in the water.”

From Green (1983), first published in the *Sidney Review*:

Feb. 8, 1950: “K. Stuart Wakefield and members of his family reported last week that they had seen a sea monster in Deep Cove.

“Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield and their two daughters were staying at the Berryman home on Chalet Road, in the absence of Col. And Mrs. A. Berryman. They informed the *Review* that they were seated in the living room, overlooking the water, when they saw what they believed was a partly submerged log. The ‘log’ suddenly commenced to move around and showed itself to be somewhat larger than a whale and a shape more like an immense snake.”

March 1, 1950: "Saanich coast sea-monster has re-appeared.

"The huge creature was spotted a couple of weeks ago off the shore of Deep Cove. It has now appeared close to Sidney.

"Joe Mason, well-known retired Sidney businessman, is the latest resident to have seen the marine mystery. His home is constructed right on the beach. From his front window he spied the creature a stone's throw from the shore and watched it for some moments. It gradually swam farther away and disappeared.

April 19, 1950: "North Saanich Oogopogo does exist. And two responsible Sidney ladies testify to the mysterious creature's recent appearance.

"Mrs. Dan Butler, regent of the North Saanich chapter of the IODE, was visiting in the waterfront home of her friend, Mrs. H. Bradley last week when they spied the sea serpent in the water nearby. It was more than a stone's throw from the shore but plainly visible.

"The ladies watched it swimming lazily for 10 minutes or more. It appeared to be 40 to 50 feet in length and brown in color. It had a small head, resembling that of a giraffe.

"The serpent was in no hurry. He was enjoying the Saanich spring weather. The creature gradually passed from the ladies' vision, heading southward."

"CADDY" IN HOME WATERS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 31, 1950

. . . Albie Davies . . . said he was sawing wood on the [Dallas Road] beach at the foot of Menzies Street when he noticed a terrific commotion offshore.

Seagulls were diving at something. Suddenly a head and neck emerged about three feet out of the water and began snapping at the gulls.

Mr. Davies, who has had plenty of experience around the waterfront, . . . reported the head resembled that of a camel . . .

It was a dark color . . . but there did not appear to be the rolls behind which others had reported.

In his latest appearance, "Caddy" disappeared and came up again several times [about 150 yards out], heading east toward Trial Island.

Mr. Davies is convinced what he saw was “Caddy” or something resembling him: “I have seen lots of seals, sea lions and porpoises, and I’m sure this thing wasn’t anything of that nature.”

SO YOU DON’T BELIEVE ME?

Vancouver, B. C., *Sun*, May 6, 1950

By Frank Kelley

“Caddy” has been popping up again. This west coast sea serpent or whatsit made personal appearances this spring at widely separated places around the southern end of Vancouver Island.

Recent startled eye-witnesses of the roving “beastie” record its presence near Deep Cove; Saanich Inlet; off Victoria in the Strait of Fuca; and in the vicinity of Tofino, about one hundred miles west of Victoria. In three out of the four reports the sea denizen was seen by more than one person at the same time. . . .

Take the case of Chief Justice James T. Brown, of Regina, for instance. “It looked like a monstrous serpent,” he stated. “It was thirty to thirty-five feet long and dark in color. Further, I have two witnesses to prove it—my wife and daughter. They couldn’t lie, even if I could. I got three good looks at him,” Chief Justice Brown concluded. “On one occasion he came almost right in front of me.” . . .

Little attention was really accorded stories told about Indian lodge fires or around the box-stoves of trading stores. It was not until 1933 that Vancouver Islanders began to get some real close-ups of a monster which apparently preferred to haunt certain areas of water off southern Vancouver Island.

It was all proper enough, the environment being what it is and so ideal for the most sophisticated sea monster and its favored observers. Only thing, their descriptions did not tally closely. One would state its head was like a horse, another that it was camel-like in shape. Then the color and length did not jibe. . . .

Reluctant to discuss the matter, residents of southern Vancouver island, who happened to see one or other of the sea beasts, kept their secret for some time until, by chance, two who had seen a strange-looking monster happened to meet. . . .

It was J. A. Kemp who first told the story to Sandham Graves, now editor of the *Colonist*, stating it could be substantiated by a well-known barrister and amateur sailor. Although it was front page material, who the parties were was not divulged at the time, Mr. Kemp expressing reluctance to have his name mentioned in connection with the story.

The story was out, however, and then began the local chronicles of the Cadborosauruses, which are not finished yet, apparently. Later, another party phoned me from Ladysmith, saying "Caddy" had been seen in San-sum Narrows.

On the morning the first sea serpent story appeared in the *Colonist* I happened to be at my desk when the telephone rang. The party at the other end of the line wanted to know where the sea monster story came from.

"This is Major W. H. Langley speaking," the voice said. "I am the barrister and amateur sailor referred to in your paper's story of the sea serpent. I saw the beast and I am not afraid to admit it. In fact, I've been preparing a story for the press, relating the experience of myself and Mrs. Langley."

Major Langley gave his prepared story to the *Daily Times* on a day in late 1932, and it appeared that evening. Chronicles of the "beast" became good copy locally. In keeping with the importance of the story, it was fitting the serpent should have a name.

Bruce McKelvie, then managing editor of the *Colonist*, hit on Amy, because of the publicity another Aimee (McPherson) was getting about the same time.

But Archie Wills, city editor of the evening journal, thought it would create more interest if the public named it, so he asked for suggestions from readers.

It happened that the telegraph editor of the *Colonist*, R. L. Pocock, was on holiday at the time. Observing the call for help in the Times, and being unaware his own paper had been first to “break” the story, he forwarded a reply to the SOS. He suggested cadborosaurus, Cadboro being the name of the bay in which it had been seen by reliable witnesses, and saurus for the genus to which it evidently belonged from the description.

He also suggest it might be called “Cady” for short, in compliment to the caddies who labored on the golf links adjacent to the waters frequented by the monster. . . .

20 REPORT SEEING CADDY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 15, 1951
Cadborosaurus is reported to have been seen by more than 20 people in the Victoria area in the past month and at Saanich Inlet during the weekend. . . .

TWO FISHERMEN REPORT STRIKING CADDY IN INLET

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 16, 1951
Like dispatches from Korea, delayed reports of sightings of Cadborosaurus are being received.

Latest was by Edmund Duffin . . . and his fishing partner, Ralph Day, on Dec. 28 in Saanich Inlet.

The men saw two dirty brown-colored humps on the calm surface of the inlet off Whittaker’s Point.

The object submerged as Mr. Duffin’s 28-foot craft approached, but seconds later the two men were almost knocked off their feet when the boat struck something.

There were no splinters, and nothing came to the surface except a swirl of water. For this reason, Mr. Duffin discounted the possibility that he had struck a deadhead.

SIGHTS CADDY IN GORGE INLET

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 2, 1951
Caddy has made a foray inland.

. . . Cadborosaurus, was sighted in the Gorge by James Fairall . . .

Working on his terrace which borders the waterfront west of the Gorge bridge, Mr. Fairall heard a commotion among ducks and seagulls.

He looked up and saw a four-foot neck and a head like a big snake thrust up from a dark brown body which looked like a log. The creature seemed to have something between its jaws—possibly a duck, Mr. Fairall said.

He said the serpent appeared to be about 10 inches wide, the neck about eight inches in diameter and a three-foot-wide body, about 20 feet in length. It ended in a long tail, the end of which was flat, somewhat like that of a muskrat—only much larger. . . .

THERE HE WAS WITH HORSEHEAD AND SAUCER EYES LOOKING AT US

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 2, 1951

Vancouver, March 27 (CP)—Two Vancouver men reported Wednesday that . . . Cadborosaurus, made an appearance in English Bay last Saturday.

The pair, Reg Palmer and Bruce Mitchell said they were fishing between Locarno and West Vancouver when “Caddy” rose 100 yards from their inboard motor boat, and stared at them with big, saucer-shaped eyes.

They described the monster as having a horse’s head.

EXPERTS SQUASH VANCOUVER CLAIM ELEPHANT SEAL FAMED SEA SERPENT

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 15, 1952

By Humphry Davy

Efforts of jealous Vancouverites to kill Victoria’s “Cadborosaurus” have failed once again.

A sea animal slain on the West Coast has been positively identified as an elephant seal—effectively quenching an announcement by a Vancouver paper that the dead animal was “Caddy.” . . .

Dr. Clifford Carl, director of the Provincial Museum, described the one-ton, 14-foot sea animal, killed by Simon Peter, a fisherman, as nothing more than an elephant seal which are seen from time to time along the west coast of the island.

Charlie Guiguet, biologist, is now cutting up the mammal on a beach near Ucluelet and will ship the bones and skull to Victoria tonight, he said.

Dr. Carl, an authority on west coast fish and mammals, scoffed at the idea that the big mammal was Caddy.

“The mammal may seem strange to Vancouverites but not to the people of Vancouver Island who know the difference between a large sea serpent and an elephant seal,” he said. . . .

It was also pointed out that only a week ago today Caddy was seen splashing about Cadboro Bay, where he was first seen years ago. The monster was watched then by three persons, a man and two women, who just missed taking a photograph of him.

This indicates Caddy is still in local waters.

[This was more than a bit tongue-in-cheek, as Dr. Clifford Carl, director of the Provincial Museum, pointed out later (Carl 1965) that many different marine animals were likely misidentified as “Caddy” over the years.]

Brown (1994) related her sighting of Caddy from sometime in the 1950s.

“It happened some 40 years ago around noon on a cool Monday.

“I had just picked up one of my sons from kindergarten and we drove down to Taylor Beach . . .

“As we stood on the bank above the shore I caught a glimpse of something in the water. It looked much like a horse’s head atop a long neck. Behind it rose the humps of a long body, undulating through the water as Caddy cruised along. . . . It passed in front of Weir’s Beach, and continued on toward Taylor Beach, coming on toward Taylor Beach, coming ever closer and clearer in the dark line of drift in that grey sea. No, it wasn’t driftwood. It was moving through the driftwood faster than the current would take it. As it reached a point in front of us it submerged once more, and this time it didn’t reappear as expected, but remained out of sight for a couple of minutes. It must have travelled underwater at great speed, because we next saw it off in the

distance off Albert Head, coming to the surface once, and then lost for ever from our view.”

Reporting this to the Provincial Museum, she was told Caddy didn't exist, so she must have seen a sea elephant.

WIDE-EYED AUDIENCE WATCHES CADDY FROLIC

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 14, 1953

Cadborosaurus . . . made his first public appearance of 1953 when he surfaced at Qualicum Bay Friday afternoon and put on a show for five amazed spectators.

One of the five was R. D. Cockburn . . . With Mr. Cockburn at the time were C. P. Crawford of Nanaimo and Ron Loach, a Qualicum Bay garageman.

“At first I doubted what I saw,” Mr. Cockburn acknowledged. “I could see a head and three bumps but I thought it must be three or four seals cavorting about. But then the thing reared up a few feet out of the water and I could see it was just one animal.”

“I watched it for a good five minutes,” he said. . . .

Mr. Cockburn described the serpent has having the general shape of a snake with three distinctive humps, equal distance apart, and a dog-shaped head with two [protrusions], possibly horns. He said when the creature reared up its head and neck looked something like a giraffe's. . . .

SNAP, BUT DON'T GET SNAPPED . . .

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 9, 1954

By Don Ingham

. . . Mr. and Mrs. Noel Thomas, whose Cordova Bay home overlooks the water from a site immediately above the beach, saw the sea monster in the bay at 12.30 p.m., and watched him for 10 minutes through binoculars until he headed eastward toward Ten Mile Point.

“We saw him first as he was swimming after ducks, with a long neck thrust forward parallel to the surface,” said Mr. Thomas. “He wounded one duck that managed to escape.”

“He travels at terrific speed,” said Mr. Thomas.

“I have been around the water all my life and recognize whales, killer whales, blackfish, porpoises, sharks, sea lions, seals, and sea otters when I see them,” he said.

“This is something altogether different. Its head is similar to that of a camel. It propels itself somewhat like a snake, and a hump rises from the water as it arcs over to submerge. The neck is long and slim, and similar in color to a light Jersey cow.”

“I had my second good look at it Friday. My wife has seen it five times,” Mr. Thomas, a retired building contractor said.

They estimated Caddy was from 50 to 60 yards from their living room window.

. . . Thomas Liston, a commercial fisherman, spied “Caddy” in Sansum Narrows, cruising slowly with head erect, held about four feet above the surface. Mr. Liston went close enough . . . to tell that he was about 22 feet in overall length, with a fairly massive body visible under the surface. . . .

Two other commercial fishermen of unimpeachable character and reputation told stories of seeing Caddy. . . .

One of them spotted Caddy in Northumberland Channel, not far from the site of the Harmac pulp mill, and said the monster easily out ran himself and three friend who tried to keep pace with him by running along the beach.

The second saw Caddy twice, once as a boy and again, later.

“Some years ago my father and I took a rowboat to reach the old family homestead on one of the islands in the northern part of Georgia Strait,” he said. “We left the boat among the rocks on a rough beach. As we returned later we could hear our dog whimpering in the boat, but could not see it because of fog. When we were 30 feet from the boat we could see a head and long neck arched out of the water, over the gunwale, and trying to reach the dog as it covered under the stern seat.

“Years later, while cruising with another fisherman whose boat was tied alongside mine, we saw it again, coming out of the fog and disappearing again. I never told anyone of what I saw because no one would believe me. This is the first time I have ever mentioned it to anyone.”

CADDY OGLES TWO CITY FISHERMEN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, November 22, 1954
. . . [Jack Daley and Jack Salsbury] swear they saw Caddy coiling off Albert Head over the weekend.

“I first saw him about 400 or 500 yards away. As he came towards us I thought he had a head like a shark . . . about two or three feet wide,” Mr. Daley said. Closer, the head looked like a frog’s head, bulge on top.

Caddy was only about 150 feet away when he went under. Up close he was a fawn color and very sleek.

SHINY SEA SERPENT WOVES NON-DRINKING EXPERT FISHERMAN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 3, 1955
Cadborosaurus started the new year right with a fine display Sunday in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Caddy disported himself before the binocular-primed eyes of drug store clerk Thomas Smith and his wife, Marion, at 2 p.m. Sunday, five miles the other side of Sooke.

“There is absolutely no argument on what we saw. . . . My German glasses are the strongest you can hold without a tripod and Caddy was only 100 feet out.” . . . The couple were down at the beach watching a passing liner when Caddy coiled into view.

Water was at the ebb and exceptionally calm at the time. There were no porpoise, ducks, kelp, logs, sea lions or anything else around which could possibly have been mistaken for Caddy, Mr. Smith affirmed.

“I got a good look at it through the glasses for about four minutes. It had a head like a boxer dog, and what appeared to be horns or horse-like ears atop.”

Behind the head the body [was] about 18 inches thick and undulated up and down in a serpentine manner. It was jet black and shiny. . . .

He described Caddy's speed as "casual," and there was no distinct wake, "just ripples on the water." Its head was about a foot out of the water. . . .

After casing the beach, Caddy went out to sea with a quick-right-angled turn. The Smiths stayed on the beach for a full hour, hoping to see him again, but Caddy's first "on stage" of the year had ended. . . .

CADDY HOLDS OLD-HOME WEEK AT CORDOVA BAY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 8, 1955

. . . At least four residents of Cordova Bay report seeing a marine beast over the weekend. One of them, Mrs. Margaret Corrigan, describes him as seen from about 60 feet off shore.

"Two or three dozen ducks were feeding on a sand bar when whatever-it-was appeared. It was at least 20 feet long. It was a yellowish-green, a sort of pale olive color. It had a sleek neck, and little horns stuck out of the water at the head end.

"It rolled up to the surface. I am sure it was after the ducks. It looked enormous, much too big to be a sea lion." . . .

CADDY CAVORTS FOR WOOD CUTTERS ON BEACH

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 24, 1955

Cadborosaurus raised his ugly head Wednesday, this time within 250 feet of the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, from which he was spotted by two men cutting wood.

. . . "I know what a sea lion, a whale and seal are. This was different.

"It had a big head, a stubby face, no ears, large shoulders and no hair on its head. It came up, took a good look around, dived down and came up about 100 yards away to look around again. It did this about five times.

“The thing was greenish grey, and each time it came up, something came up behind it. I don’t know whether it was a tail or what.” . . .

From Green (1983), first published in the *Sidney Review*:

Feb. 8, 1956: A creature was seen in the water off Madrona Drive by several individuals, including a newspaperman. “Now the Review is strictly a landlubber—whereas both Mr. Dalton and Mr. Campbell are ex naval officers and thus know everything there is to know about the sea. Both agreed that the sight they beheld was unique, but beyond that there was little agreement. The object lay in calm water about 200 yards off shore. It was observed through glasses. It moved frequently. Sometimes its head would be thrust high out of the water.

“Its head would first turn north, then south. The whole object moved at will, 10 feet northward, then 20 feet southward. Periodically its toes would appear, some distance from the main mass. Puffs of vapor were observed as it breathed.

“On two occasions airliners flew overhead. Each time the entire creature submerged completely and stayed under the surface for several minutes. It is apparently allergic to airplanes.

“Mr. Dalton and his party observed it until nearly dusk, when it submerged and didn’t reappear. . . .”

CADDY BEAUTIFUL, SAYS VISITOR

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 8, 1956

. . . Mrs. McHale sighted an “animal” which she is sure was Caddy on the way here from Vancouver. From the deck of the Princess Louise, on Feb. 28, in bright sunshine, she saw “some animal come up out of the sea, some distance from the ship.”

He went down again after a few seconds and repeated the performance three times.

“He had a head something like a seal,” said Mrs. McHale. “He had whiskers around his chin, and his body was all shiny and glistening.

“He was just beautiful,” she concluded, firmly.

CADBOROSAURUS ROMPS FOR VICTORIA ARTIST

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 20, 1956

Artist Mort Graham claimed to have seen Caddy while fishing in the evening off Trial Island. It surfaced for about five minutes then swam seaward. Graham said it wasn't porpoises, seals or sea lions.

CADDY MAKES RETURN TO MARK CENTENARY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 13, 1958

Four carpenters working on a house at the foot of Monarch Place, Gordon Head, saw Caddy twice nearby. "All they saw was his head. One described it as being pig-like. The other three said it was more like a horse. All agreed it was orange in color."

CADDY SEEN TWICE OVER WEEKEND

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 15, 1958

Arnold Webb (secretary manager of the Chamber of Commerce) and his 7-year-old daughter Holly saw Caddy at 8.30 Sunday morning off Northwest Bay south of Parksville. "Mr. Webb, an ex-naval lieutenant with years at sea and an ardent fisherman, has done an about-face to his previous skepticism. 'I am extremely serious about seeing Caddy. I wouldn't lie about it. . . . It was a weird sensation and I was certainly taken aback.'" He viewed it through a 40-power marine telescope, seeing a slender neck followed by two coils. He planned to organize a committee to investigate reports officially.

Kenneth Webb, 15, (unrelated) saw Caddy off Fiddle Reef about 4.30 p.m. Saturday while fishing with his uncle. His uncle looked when Ken pointed it out, but only saw a deep swirl in the water which might have been made by a large object rapidly sinking.

SERPENTLY, IT'S QUITE BAFFLING

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 2, 1958

Three fishermen saw a "serpent of sorts" while fishing at Qualicum. They were about two miles off shore in a dinghy. The animal was "75 feet long, with a square head nine feet long, pointed fangs, and shiny brown skin with darker spots." George Shallafore noted, "We got within 30 feet of it. We watched for about eight minutes, keeping close by. Then it turned and came toward us with its mouth open. Its fangs were pointed." At that point the men headed for shore at full throttle.

SIX-HUMPED MYSTERY BEAST SEEN IN BAY
Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 5, 1958

Three fishermen in McKenzie Bay on Finlayson Arm on Sunday night were surprised by the surfacing of a strange animal: “a great big thing, and different from anything we have ever seen. Its head seemed to be pushing water as it came out, and behind the head were six humps. The humps were exactly like the undulations of a snake, except that they went up and down instead of sideways.”

THIS CADDY REALLY CADDY, TWO VICTORIA MEN CERTAIN
Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 7, 1958

Two fishermen confirmed they were in a separate boat and witnessed the same creature at the time of the Finlayson Arm incident above. Douglas Couper said it was 50 feet long with four or five humps, and “made a lot of whooshing noises” as it surfaced. “The thing was strictly out of the ordinary.”

WOMAN SIGHTS CADDY OFF TEN MILE POINT
Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 9, 1958

Mrs. Stanley Mitchell called the newspaper as she was witnessing the creature through her front bedroom window. “I can see it now. A long series of dark-grey coils looping out of the water . . . it’s churning up like mad . . . the water is boiling all round it. No, I can’t see a head or a tail. Just a succession of coils snaking up and down. It might be 100 feet long. I can’t be sure. I would guess it’s about half a mile from where I’m standing.” While she watched, her daughter, Mrs. John Newton, dashed down to the beach to try and get a closer look. Mrs. Mitchell talked to the reporter for about 20 minutes while she had Caddy in sight. “There was a boat out there a while ago. I hope it doesn’t go too near. No small boat could stay afloat in that boiling mass . . . There it goes again. I’m sure it’s not a whale or a sea lion. I’ve seen those before. This must be Caddy.” It eventually moved out seaward until it disappeared from view.

Morris (1972): “In 1959, on July 19, Caddy was again spotted, this time by an entire family from Victoria who were fishing from two boats near Race Rocks. They all saw from a distance of only 100 yards, Caddy’s jagged dorsal crest swimming through the water at very great speed.”

...

“On Boxing Day, 1960, a Sidney couple saw Caddy about a half-mile from town. He was reported to be heading southwards with his head raised some eight feet above the water. The couple said that their attention was attracted to Caddy by clouds of gulls which seemed to be diving at him.”

From Green (1983), first published in the *Sidney Review*:

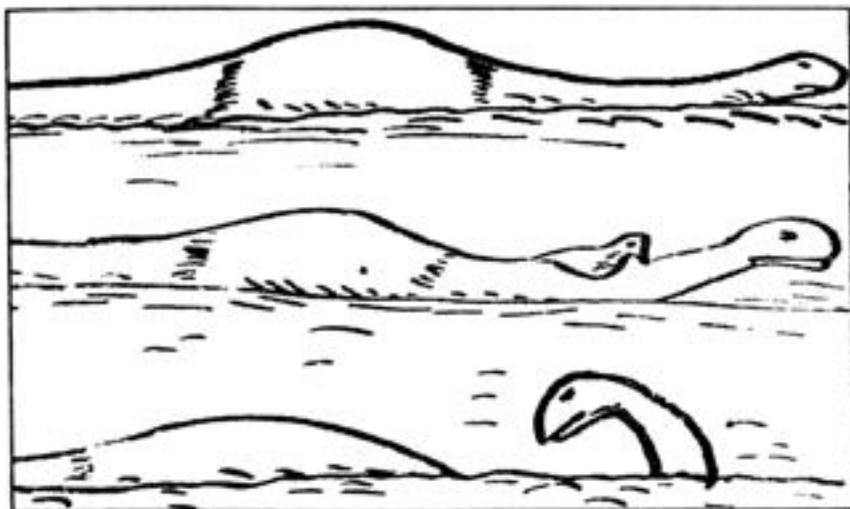
Feb. 8, 1961: “The near legendary sea monster was seen out for his morning swim by John Walker, . . . at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Caddy came to within some 400 yards of the beach . . .

“The observer took him for a log at first. When the ‘log’ moved off to explore the sea around James Island, Mr. Walker realized that he was watching, through his binoculars, something more active than a deadhead.

“Mr. Walker described him as about 20 feet long and dark brown in color with a hump on the back. . . .”

March 29, 1961: “Mrs. A. R. Stacey of . . . Sidney, was thoroughly awoken one morning recently when she opened the blinds in her living room and saw a strange monster out in the water. She followed its movements through her binoculars and promptly executed a sketch of ‘Caddy’ in the three positions he occupied while visible from her home.

“At first she assumed it was a log, but then she noticed that it drifted against the tide. While watching closely she saw a head rise from



the water to assume the second position shown, when a seagull settled on the long neck.

“She took her attention away from the neck to see the end of the tail. When she glanced again at the neck, the bird had gone and the creature was looking backwards.

“There was no sign of the seagull in the water or the air and she assumed that it had been eaten.”

CADDY'S KISSIN' COUSIN FROLICS UP-ISLAND

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 9, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Maclean of Painter's Lodge watched a strange animal through binoculars as it swam in the Campbell River, from their waterfront home. They watched it for five minutes: “It swam in a circle less than 100 yards from shore. It wasn't in any kind of hurry, but just swam slowly around, always to the right.” They saw two men in a rowboat approach it and take some shots, which scared it away. Maclean said it was “16 to 18 feet long and a dirty ivory color with streaks of red. A short distance behind its turtle-like head was a huge hump.” The hump appeared to be “something like bone or gristle.” They said “it had a rather pleasant, friendly face.”

KANGAROO-LIKE SEA MONSTER SIGHTED AGAIN

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 11, 1962

The Campbell River sea monster was reported seen by five men working at the paper mill's company dock, while it swam in Duncan Bay. Terry Temple thought it was a deer until he saw two humps behind its head. It was 16-20 feet long, swimming toward Quadra Island, then heading toward Campbell River. “The head went up and down in the water. Best way I can think to describe that head is that it was like a kangaroo's. I mean, it had ears. It was a light tan color.” Indians of the Klamahto band said they had known of the creature for the past 80 years, calling it Wunzeesbaleese, “because of its ability to thrust its head in and out of the water.”

SEA SERPENT SIGHTED BY COUPLE AT LANTZVILLE

Nanaimo, B. C., *Daily News*, December 17, 1962

W. G. Clark was moving logs on the beach in front of his Lantzville home when he spotted a sea serpent. He called his wife, who ran down

to the beach with her 8mm movie camera with telephoto lens. She shot almost 2 ½ feet of film before it disappeared into Nanoose Bay. He said it was about 100 yards from shore when first seen and was about 20 feet long. He thought it was a log at first, then saw it was moving rapidly. She said it was brownish in color with a round, ball-like head.

NO SEA SERPENT SEEN ON LANTZVILLE WOMAN'S FILM

Nanaimo, B. C., *Daily News*, December 19, 1962

The CBC borrowed the Clarks' film to develop it, but "the creature evidently was too far away to be seen clearly. There was movement in the water but a serpent was not discernable." Clark noted that he was sure it was not a black fish, and that it had "a round ball-like head and behind it three humps sticking out of the water."

MONSTER ON VIEW AGAIN

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, *Star Phoenix*, December 31, 1962

Mrs. Robert Guy (wife of an RCMP sergeant) and Mrs. K. B. Holland saw the sea serpent off Lantzville while sitting in the Guys' living room. They grabbed binoculars and both had a good view of it as it swam near pilings about 200 yards from them. "They said a large hump came out of the water followed behind the object's head and neck. It appeared to swim with an undulating motion giving the impression of a long body following behind the head." The head was camel-like, and dark brown. It had "exaggerated" lips.

CADDY RETURNS TO 'SIT' FOR TIMES ARTIST

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, February 15, 1963

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Welham of Saltair reported seeing Caddy shortly before 1 pm Tuesday, as it swam toward Sansum Narrows. Their home faced Stuart Channel, and the creature was less than 100 feet away. "The part we saw was about ten feet long . . . a sort of S curve or undulation running back from a rather stubby head. This neck, as I suppose you'd call it, was eight or ten inches thick, tapering toward a much heavier body. It seemed to me there was a suggestion of a hump further down, but I can't be sure about that. . . . As my husband observed, the part of him we could see looked like a gigantic eel. He didn't seem at all fierce; there were no fins or mane or anything of that sort. He was a uniform grey in color, and he didn't shine."

'I SAW STRANGEST SIGHT'

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 1, 1963

Mrs. R. A. Stewart thought she saw Caddy near Gabriola Island. While fishing, she saw "a large brown-headed animal swimming a few feet away from our boat. It had a huge head, but it was its horrible, wide-open jaws which terrified me. But by the time I screamed to my husband to row quickly to the beach, the creature had vanished." She was certain it wasn't kelp, porpoise, blackfish, sea lion or other normal marine life.

ALL 25 FEET OF CADDY LOOPS ALONG

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 7, 1963

Mrs. Tom Conrad watched a 25-foot-long sea serpent swim in the Campbell River off Shelter Point for about 10 minutes. It was 200 to 300 feet from shore. "It had a long snake-like body, and a peculiarly shaped head, not exactly like a snake head, because it had more of a bulge at the top than a snake does. I noticed this disturbance in the water and at first I thought it was a group of seals in a school of fish. But then I could see six or eight loops, all in a straight line behind the triangular head. I was sure they weren't seals. There was only one ripple going back from the body as it moved along. Then it disappeared, and in a minute or two came back up to the surface. This time the humps or loops were gone, and the thing was in a straight line in the water, moving ahead." The Campbell River sea monster had been named Klamahtosaurus locally ('Klamahto' being the Native word for the spit at the entrance of the Campbell River).

MONSTER 'HISSED'

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, March 29, 1963

Mrs. J. C. Durrant of Shelter Point saw the Campbell River sea monster, saying it was about 25 feet long, "looked like a dragon, and made a hissing noise."

'SORRY I STARTED IT' SAYS CADDY TRACKER

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 29, 1963

CADDY HOAX EXPOSED IN BOATHOUSE LAIR

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 30, 1963

A fairly obvious floating 'monster' made up of driftwood, tires and

rubber tubes was discovered near Mill Bay's resort beach, apparently made up in time for a fishing derby.

CADDY SEEN AGAIN?

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, October 7, 1966

Two fishermen in separate boats, between Galiano and Mayne islands, were attracted by a large flock of birds, and thought there might be a sea lion, so they investigated. "Suddenly a large head, shaped like a horse's, reared out of the water blowing twin streams of spray from its nostrils. Held crosswise in its mouth was a large salmon." The fishermen took off and the "thing" submerged.

Author William Hagelund claimed in his book *Whalers No More* (1987) to have captured a small aquatic animal in 1968 that Bousfield and LeBlond (1995) referred to in support of their description of *Cadborosaurus* as a new genus of living marine reptile. Woodley, Naish, and McCormick (2011) disagreed with that interpretation, suggesting that the character traits of Hagelund's creature better fit a bay pipefish. Bousfield and LeBlond (2011) dismissed this idea, while Woodley, McCormick, and Naish (2012) pointed out several issues with that dismissal.

CADDY'S KIDDY SPOTTED IN CADBORO

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, October 8, 1969

By Pat Dufour

The last reported sighting of *Cadborosaurus* . . . was August 30, 1967, when he was seen with a convoy of three offspring off Saxe Point.

What looked like one of Caddy's offspring was spotted again today.

Mrs. W. S. Foster . . . was the first to see the sea serpent, frolicking around Cadboro Bay, 20 feet off shore.

This was at 8. a.m.

By 8:30 a.m. several of were neighbors were on watch too. . . .

Frances Waring ways she has lived in Cadboro Bay for 19 years and has never seen anything like this.

“It has to be Caddy’s youngster. I’ve seen too many seals, ducks and other things in the water. He is definitely a sea serpent.”

“Joan Foster, who has only lived in Cadboro Bay since she came from Vancouver six weeks ago is relieved that she has witnesses to back up what she saw.

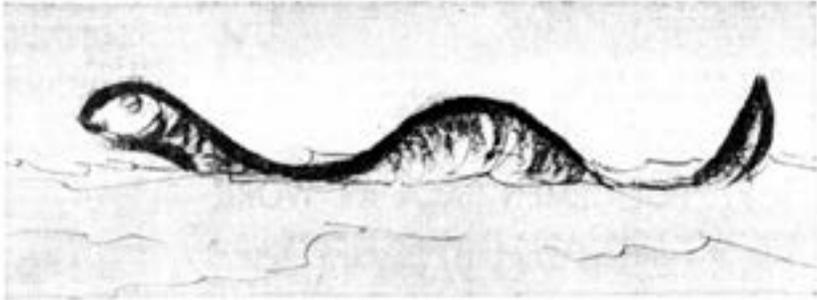
“I first saw him two weeks ago but I didn’t say anything to anyone then. I thought people would think I was out of my three!”

An artist, Mrs. Foster says she was just about ready to get down to some painting when she spotted the serpent this morning.

By the time photographer Bill Halkett and I arrived on the scene, the serpent—or whatever it is—was sporting around about 2,000 feet offshore. . . .

The creature that romped, dived and swam along this morning was about five feet in length, a darkish green color, and had a round head that was lizard-like. When it dived it flipped its tail completely out of the water . . .

Joan Foster sketched our mystery creature’s likeness. I agree that it tallies with what I saw through the binoculars. . . .



Younger member of sea serpent Caddy’s family, Fidele, as sketched by viewer Mrs. Joan Foster.

‘CADDY’ VISITS FOUL BAY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, December 14, 1970

Glenn Bertie, 14, was walking the beach alone near Harling Point overlooking Foul Bay, when he saw a 20-foot finned serpent with “what looked like the head of a giant cobra, about a foot out of the water.”

ANGLERS HAD WHALE OF A TALE AFTER 1981 SERPENT SIGHTING

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 16, 1992

Ed Bousfield and Paul LeBlond were soliciting Caddy reports, and the newspaper noted that fishing columnist Alec Merriman had received the account of Rudy Ewert and his son Wally, from June 1981.

“I was fishing off the rocks of Beechey Head (June 9) with my son Wally when we both saw this serpent-like animal surface about (30 metres) from our boat.

“I have fished these waters for seven years now and have seen many unusual sights such as sea elephants, killer whales, seals, including logs, etc., but never anything like this.

“The time was 7.30 a.m. The sea was quite calm and visibility good.

“The sighting lasted no more than five seconds and never appeared again, although the animal seemed to be going at a leisurely speed only.

“There were no fins or spines showing, but the ribs were well marked and the greyish, brown skin seemed to be pulled in toward the centre.

“The hump came out of the water no more than (60 cm) and the visible length of it must have been (about four metres). . . .”

Wilson (1987) reported Dr. Paul LeBlond’s investigation into 1980s Caddy sightings. Colin Cole of Roberts Creek reported something in the water with a 1.8 meter-long neck and a 12 to 14 foot long body in 1985. Also in 1985, a kayaker saw a long necked animal with a head like a deer in the water near Point Grey. LeBlond speculated that more than one type of sea creature might be reported as a ‘sea monster.’ He stated he doesn’t believe or disbelieve in the creature: “In the sense that I do observations in the oceans, I wouldn’t have to go on the basis of belief or disbelief that I’m going to find something, and yet, the word belief smacks too much of acceptance without sufficient proof.”

From Barrett (1989):

January 1984 at daybreak, a 20-foot-long animal, about two feet wide, with “a whitish-tan throat, bumps like giraffe horns, large floppy ears and a somewhat pointed black snout” surfaced about 200 yards from a fisherman kayaking off Spanish Banks. The animal seemed as surprised as the kayaker and “headed rapidly out to sea, swimming

very efficiently by up-and-down wiggling.” The witness reported this to Dr. Paul LeBlond.

SEA SERPENT FEARED DEAD

Calgary, Alberta, *Herald Sun*, July 19, 1992

Reacting to the lack of sightings, Ed Bousfield wondered if it was just fear of ridicule that kept people from reporting or if Caddy had been extirpated, perhaps by interfering with its breeding locations.

BREEDING CADDYS DISTURBED BY PLANE

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 28, 1993

Don Berends, chief pilot of Cooper Air, and a student pilot saw a pair of sea creatures while flying in Saanich Inlet. They were practicing landing in a Cessna float plane in the west end of Brentwood Bay around 4:30 p.m. on a dull, overcast day. “I saw something irregular. It was not clearly a monster, but it was different from what we usually see. We saw them in front when they made a splash. They [each] had two hoops. We landed right where it had been and then we saw it rise out of the water in front of us and we were still moving at 50 miles per hour and it started moving away. They were 20 to 40 feet away and going quite quickly.” The greyish/bluish hoops were “15-20 centemetres deep and they could see daylight under them.” They waited a day or two before contacting Ed Bousfield, who thought they might have seen a breeding pair.

MORE SIGHTINGS ADD TO CADDY’S STACK

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 31, 1993

The pilots’ report spurred Sidney resident Terry Osland to send her June 1991 sighting to Ed Bousfield. She was walking her dog at Ardmore Point when the dog refused to go down to the beach. “I saw this face looking at me, then it disappeared over the edge and the dog was fighting to get away. I heard a splash and I looked over and saw the back end go into the water. It then came up twice and I saw the top of its head. It was bigger than a killer whale, I’ve seen them, and it couldn’t have been an elephant seal. It was hard to describe. It was smooth, it had no hair, and the tail was rounded like a lizard tail and it had, like little feet on the side back of the tail. The area where it was on the beach had an indentation (three to 3 ½ metres) like the inden-

tation a boat leaves on the beach. It had gray, silver color skin that resembled the smooth skin of a dog fish. I never saw a long neck. . . .”

CADDY SIGHTING THRILLS FANS OF SEA MONSTER

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, May 31, 1995

Two female kayakers reported seeing a couple of humps in the water in the afternoon while inside Albert Head off Witty’s Lagoon. They didn’t believe it was a sea lion. They watched for four minutes, and tried to paddle closer but couldn’t keep up with it.

LAWYER SWEARS HE SAW CADDY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, October 17, 1995

Vancouver lawyer David Harris and a group of friends sailing in Howe Sound in August saw a creature midway between Bowen Island and the mainland around 11 a.m. on August 5. He thought he saw a seal, when, “As we watched, the head rose on a long neck and it was clearly not a seal. The head was about 10 inches in general overall diameter. It didn’t have a prominent dog muzzle shape [of a seal], but was more generally rounded like a very large fist.” The neck was about 50 centimeters long and 15 to 20 centimeters diameter. It took off south, keeping its head up for about 20 feet, then submerging for good.

MAN CLAIMS HE SAW CADDY CRUISING TOWARD ESQUIMALT

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 24, 1996

Ivor Cooke of Victoria reported seeing Caddy 40 meters off Saxe point in Esquimalt. Cooke was sitting in his car at 3:15 p.m., looking at naval frigates through his binoculars. It was an overcast but clear day with calm seas. What he thought was a whale popped up, but then a horse-like head, but stubbier, on a half-meter of neck, came into view. There were two gray/black humps, and he estimated it at 5 to 10 meters long. It drifted along, then disappeared.

DOIN’ WHAT THEY OTTER

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, January 26, 1996

Joan Kyle-Jones reported seeing a Caddy-like head and humps in the water of Ross Bay, but after returning a few hours later, she watched it closely for an hour, and determined it was a group of sea otters.

CADDY A LITTLE CAMERA SHY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, April 18, 1996

Two teenage rugby players visiting from Wales reported seeing Caddy off Ten Mile Point. They saw a 15-meter eel-like creature from about 20 meters. "I thought it was a conger eel. It was at least a half metre thick, black and had these big spines on its back. Each hump was about a metre and a half apart." They were sure it was not a seal.

THREE SIGHTINGS OF MYSTERIOUS CADDY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 27, 1996

Three people saw eight-inch blue-gray coils surface about a foot out of the water for a couple of seconds in front of the Mill Bay ferry.

CADBOROSAURUS REMAINS CAMERA-SHY

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 23, 1998

SECOND THOUGHTS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, August 2, 1998

Three boaters spotted something in the water off Isabella Point. Ruth Cross said it was 100 feet away, and "clearly saw two humps with sets of fins." Tommy Schmuck agreed that it was Caddy. Less Monnington thought it was just a couple of salmon "finning."

ALASKA

Oudemans (1892) noted the report of a Mr. Kriukof, an American Company agent in the Aleutians, as given to Otto von Kotzebue in 1817 (so the incident occurred a year or so earlier): "Mr. Kriukof's description of a sea animal which pursued him at Behring's Island, where he had gone for the purpose of hunting, is very remarkable. Several Aleutians affirm they have often seen this animal. It is of the shape of the Red serpent, and immensely long; the head resembles that of the sea-lion, and two disproportionately large eyes give it a frightful appearance. 'It was very fortunate for us' said Kriukof, 'that we were so near land, or else the monster would have swallowed us: it stretched its head far above the water, looked about for prey, and vanished. The head soon appeared again, and that considerably nearer: we rowed with all our might, and were very happy to have reached

the shore before the serpent. The sea-lions were so terrified at the sight, that some rushed into the water, and others hid themselves on the shore.”

Morris (1972): “. . . in August, 1912, on a steamer bound for Skagway, Alaska, [Mrs. Hildegaard Forbes] saw a creature of about 40 feet. ‘He was definitely snake-like; head raised and steady all the time he was in view [several minutes] . . . his mane seemed like seaweed.’ But Mrs. Forbes did not report her sighting until many years after its event.”

SEES ALASKA SEA SERPENT

Hyder, Alaska, *Weekly Herald*, September 15, 1928
Territorial Fish Commissioner A. J. Sprague, who is both temperate and reliable, is authority for the following sea serpent yarn: Sprague was out on official business on the Yukobi, accompanied by Captain Tom Smith, the owner of the vessel. Near Morris Reef at the junction of Chatham and Peril straits, there appeared before their eyes at a distance not to exceed 100 yards, a monster of the deep that was fully 300 feet in length and about four feet in diameter, of a greenish blue color and which had a gliding motion from side to side in swimming, very much like a snake. As the animal, snake or whatever it was, swam rather slowly, Sprague and Smith had a splendid view of it. The former seized a rifle and as the body of the thing would appear above the crest of the waves, fired a number of shots at it. He is confident that one or more of the leaden bullets reached vital parts, as it seemed to writhe in the water and finally reared its long snakelike head several feet above the sea and disappeared into the depths. The Yukobi remained in the vicinity for some time in the hope that the huge body would again come to the surface. Judging from the thickness of the thing it was estimated every four feet of it would weight a ton, which would give it a total weight of 75 tons. The locality in which the monster was seen visited again later, but nothing was seen of it. Mr. Sprague is certain it was unable to digest the bullets by which it was hit and that

its dead body now reposes with other mysteries of the deep.

WHOPPER FROM SEA

Juneau, Alaska, *Daily Alaska Empire*, September 30, 1938

The fabled sea serpent of Loch Ness, the Cadborosaurus of British Columbia and Ogo-Pogo of Lake Okanagan can all take a back seat now for the North Pacific can furnish a sea monster as large as a whale with the head and shoulders of an elephant and a tail like a ship's rudder set perpendicularly.

This is by no less an authority than Capt. Herman Klein, pilot of the steamship *Aleutian*, Second Officer Gunnar Olsborg and an unnamed quartermaster, all on watch at the time, according to the formal report turned in to Alaska Steamship Company headquarters.

The statement follows:

“On board S. S. *Aleutian* sighted off Cape of Straits Light, Frederick Sound, 5 p.m., September 19, by watch officers a species of mammal never before seen by officers of this vessel. It had the same type of color of skin as a whale but the back and head had the appearance of an elephant. What was seen is not to be confused with a sea serpent as the body was altogether too large. The veracity of the ship's officers is not to be questioned as their sea experience ranges from thirteen to fifty-one years.”

Officers said the tail was straight up and down instead of crossways like a whale.

CADBOROSAURUS—OR A RELATIVE—

SPOTTED SWIMMING IN ALASKA WATERS

Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist*, July 20, 2011

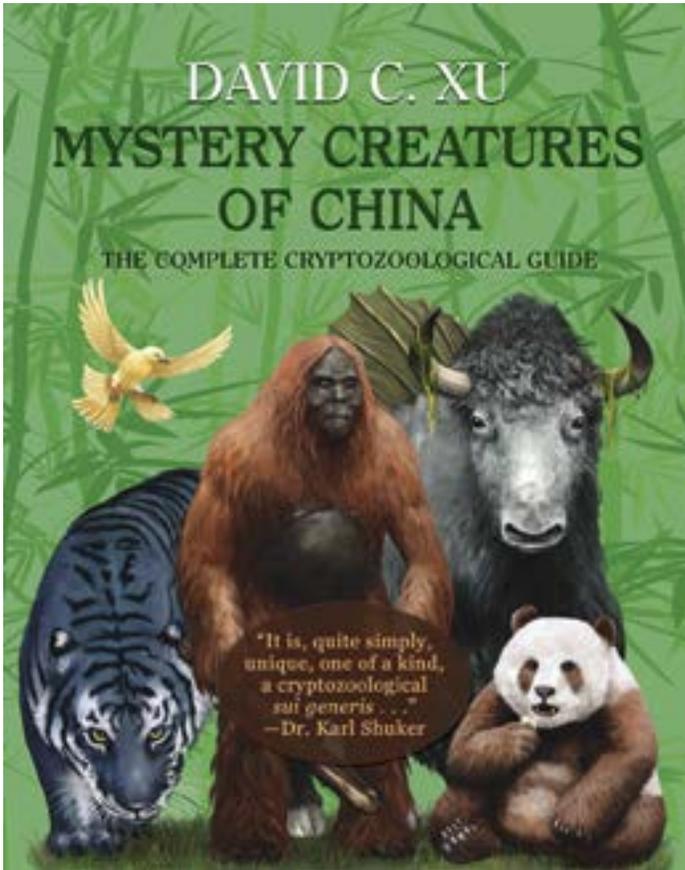
Fisherman Kelly Nash shot inconclusive video of a 'sea serpent' in Nushagak Bay, Alaska. It later appeared on a Discovery Channel show.

REFERENCES

- Anon. 1933. Sea monster coming to town Wednesday. Latrobe, Pennsylvania, *Bulletin* (Oct. 16).
- Anon. 1934. "Sea serpent" at Antioch exposed as rubber tubing. Tulare, California, *Advance Register* (Nov. 19).
- Bandini, R. 1934. I saw a sea monster. *Esquire* (June).
- Bandini, R. (ed.) 1936. *Men, Fish and Tackle: The Story of J. A. Coxe*. Bronson, Michigan: Bronson Reel Co.
- Barrett, E. 1989. Sasquatch-watchers should look to sea. Bellingham, Washington, *Herald* (Jan. 2).
- Bauer, A. M., and A. P. Russell. 1993-1996. A living plesiosaur? A critical assessment of the description of *Cadborosaurus*. *Cryptozoology* 12: 1-18.
- Bousfield, E. L., and P. H. LeBlond. 1995. An account of *Cadborosaurus willsi*, new genus, new species, a large aquatic reptile from the Pacific coast of North America. *Amphipacifica* 1(Sup. 1): 3-25.
- Bousfield, E. L., and P. H. LeBlond. 2011. Pipefish or pipe dream? *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 25(4): 779-780.
- Brown, N. 1994. I saw sea serpent we call Caddy. Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist* (March 13).
- Buffum, R. 1976a. In search of our own sea monster, part II. Los Angeles, California, *Times* (Aug. 15).
- Buffum, R. 1976b. Fond memories of a monster. Los Angeles, California, *Times* (Sept. 19).
- Buffum, R. 1980. San Clemente serpent not sighted. Los Angeles, California, *Times* (July 15).
- Carl, C. 1965. Sea lions, porpoises, sharks . . . They've all been 'Caddy.' Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist* (August 26).
- Clark, B., and B. Clark. 2005-2017. *SF Sea Serpent*. (website) <https://web.archive.org/web/20180412180116/http://home.access4less.net/~sfseaserpent/>
- Fields, B. 1933. "Sea monsters don't exist" . . . says Science; "But we've seen them" . . . say these men. *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine* (Feb. 19); 10, 20.
- Green, J. 1983. Saanich Peninsula sea serpents. Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist* (June 26).
- LeBlond, P. H., and J. Sibert. 1973. Observations of large unidentified marine animals in British Columbia and adjacent waters.

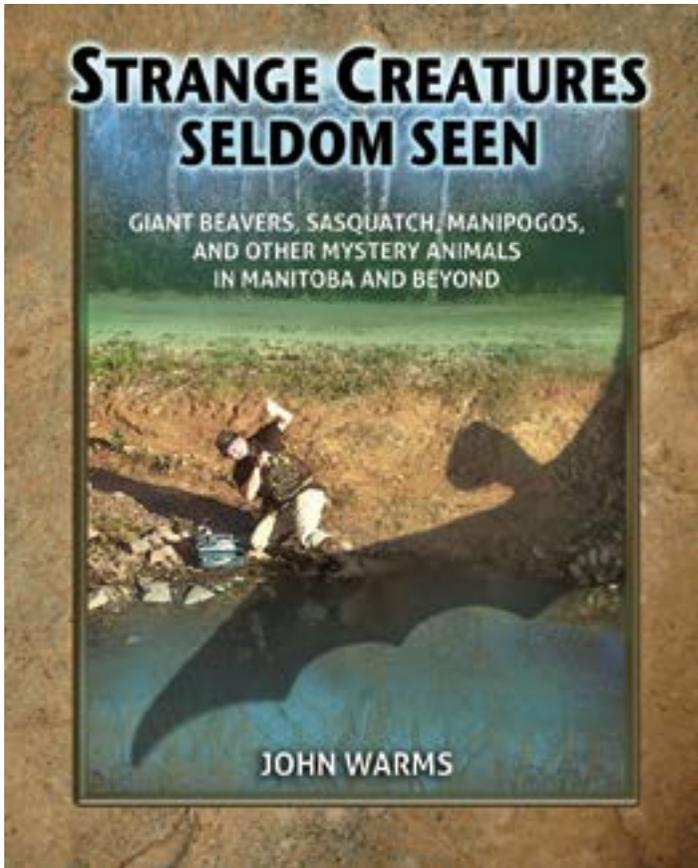
Institute of Oceanography, University of British Columbia, *Manuscript Report No.* 28.

- Morris, B. 1972. Grunt . . . Snort . . . Hiss . . . Egad, it's a denizen of the deep. *Weekend Magazine* (Dec. 2).
- Naish, D. 2001. Sea serpents, seals and coelacanths: An attempt at a holistic approach to the identity of large aquatic cryptids. *Fortean Studies* 7: 75-94.
- Newman, E. 1849. Enormous undescribed animal, apparently allied to the Enaliosauri, seen in the Gulf of California. *The Zoologist* 7: 2356.
- Oudemans, A. C. 1892. *The Great Sea-Serpent*. Leiden: Brill.
- Paxton, C. G. M. 1998. A cumulative species description curve for large open water marine animals. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the U.K.* 78: 1389-1391.
- Paxton, C. G. M. 2009. The plural of 'anecdote' can be 'data': Statistical analysis of viewing distances in reports of unidentified large marine animals 1758-2000. *Journal of Zoology* 279(4): 381-387.
- Paxton, C. G. M., and D. Naish. 2019. Did nineteenth century marine vertebrate fossil discoveries influence sea serpent reports? *Earth Sciences History* 38(1): 16-27.
- Paxton, C. G. M., and A. J. Shine. 2016. Consistency in eyewitness reports of aquatic 'monsters.' *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 30(1): 16-26.
- Paxton, C. G. M., E. Knatterud, and S. L. Hedley. 2005. Cetaceans, sex and sea serpents. *Archives of Natural History* 32(1): 1-9.
- Rubenstein, S. 1983. Sea serpent captured on paper. San Francisco, California, *Chronicle* (Nov. 3).
- Wilson, C. 1987. Prof's on the trail of elusive Caddy. Victoria, B. C., *Times Colonist* (Dec. 9).
- Woodley, M. A., D. Naish, and H. P. Shanahan. 2008. How many extant pinniped species remain to be described? *Historical Biology* 20(4): 225-235.
- Woodley, M. A., D. Naish, and C. A. McCormick. 2011. A baby sea-serpent no more: Reinterpreting Hagelund's juvenile 'Cadborosaur' report. *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 25(3): 497-514.
- Woodley, M. A., C. A. McCormick, and D. Naish. 2012. Response to Bousfield and LeBlond: Shooting pipefish in a barrel; Or, sauropterygian 'mega-serpents' and Occam's Razor. *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 26(1): 143-147.



Mystery Creatures of China
David C. Xu

This enthralling introduction to the cryptozoological folklore of China should be a template for mystery animal books from all over the world. Author David Xu has dug up sighting reports and folkloric animals from across the country, both historical and to the present day. This book deserves a spot in every cryptozoological library.



Strange Creatures Seldom Seen

John Warm's

Canadian author John Warm's offers one of the most detailed looks at the cryptozoological sightings from the province of Manitoba. Sasquatch, lake monsters, flying creatures, giant beavers, and many other strange creatures are described. John is active in field work, trying to obtain evidence that will prove that these creatures actually exist. This is a must-have book for your cryptozoological library.

BioForteian Miscellany

Chad Arment

EVERGLADES “DEVIL-WORM”

Back in 1949, a former RAF pilot was flying his own plane over the Everglades, when he spotted a shingled roof in the foliage. Further investigation led to the finding of a small abandoned village. Different stories cropped up about it: it had been a Seminole village abandoned after a hurricane, or an epidemic, or it had been built by smugglers and bootleggers. One local man, Maurice Hale, claimed that he and several Seminole guides had led Robert L. Ripley (of ‘Believe It or Not’ fame) there in 1927 while they were searching for “a rare grubworm called the ‘devil worm’ by the Seminoles.”

I’ve not been able to find any additional information on such a ‘devil worm’ in the literature (zoological or anthropological), and I’m not altogether convinced that Hale wasn’t telling tales. In a 1952 news brief, Hale is mentioned as an amateur herpetologist who identified an unusual snake killed by a Lakeland woman as a ‘balboa,’ that might have hitched a ride to Florida on a Central American banana boat. He claimed, “The female balboa has a tail light and anytime it wants to flirt she just lights up.” No photo of the dead snake is shown, so I don’t know if it was just a small boa or something else. Obviously Hale was kidding the reporter, but I don’t know if that made him an inveterate tall tale-teller, or if his story of the ‘devil worm’ was legitimate.

Anon. 1949. Lakeland man has theory to explain ‘ghost village.’ Tampa, Florida, *Tribune* (Sept. 30).

Anon. 1952. Lakeland’s mystery snake just a flirting female. Tampa Bay, Florida, *Times* (July 28).

Stout, W. 1959. The Beachcomber (column). Fort Lauderdale, Florida, *News* (March 2).

THE APRICOT EMBRYO

In July 1939, a 16-year-old fruit picker, Richard Contreras, was working in a Hemet, California, orchard, when he cut open an apricot for drying and found a bird embryo inside it.

“Attesting to the authenticity of the find are 10 fellow workers and H. A. Miller, owner of the Hemet orchard where the unusual specimen was discovered. The embryo has reached a development of approximately two weeks’ growth, according to ornithologists. From external appearances it probably is of the sparrow species. The apricot in which it was found, and in which it replaced the seed pit, was fully and naturally grown and showed no surface scars” (*LA Times*). The apricot was picked from the top of a tree. Botanists noted it was unlikely the apricot would have grown naturally to full size without a seed pit, and a zoologist who was queried thought it must be a fake, as he couldn’t see any way it could happen naturally.

I don’t see any further news posted about it at the time, but I suspect that someone was trying to pull a prank on the young fruit picker.

Anon. 1939. Science baffled by discovery of embryo bird in apricot. Los Angeles, California, *Times* (July 25).



OOP Ape?

“Schenectady, N. Y. (AP). At first Nick Dentz, 87, the caretaker thought it was a twig, scratching against the rain swept window of the big house in the dark, a twig swayed by the wind. He went on reading.

“A door rattled. Nick put down his book and listened. Then a scratching at another window. He put out the light and peered into the blackness. Nothing. ‘Getting a little jumpy, aren’t you Nick?’ he mused to himself, turning on the light.

“Then the scratching sound at the first window again. A moan, rising to high pitch and ending in an excited jabber. Nick’s hair stood on end. He dropped his pipe, seized a rifle and waited. A bony hand appeared at the window, then slowly a face rose above the sill, eyes blinking in the light. A diabolical face, lips contorted. A shot crashed out from Nick’s rifle, then five more, right thru the glass window.

“Hours passed. The James estate is isolated, it’s owners away for the summer and no one heard the shots blazed from the broken window all night as the old man, frantic with fear, fired. Friday afternoon he crept to the phone, startled a neighbor two miles away with his frantic summons. Sheriff Gardner sent his deputies.

“They found Nick Dentz shaking with fright, empty cartridges on the floor. ‘I shot it,’ he broke out. ‘It tried to get in.’ Outside in the garden by the window lay a furred body. ‘Either a chimpanzee or a baboon,’ said Sheriff Gardner. ‘A bullet went thru its head.’ He began an investigation to find out whence it might have come.”

Anon. 1933. Caretaker kills ‘ghost.’ *Nebraska State Journal* (Aug. 12).

A CANADIAN ORYX

This account was kindly forwarded to me by Kevin Stewart. A couple of news reports from 1966 note “persistent reports of sightings of an African type of antelope in the frigid northwestern tip of British Columbia.” Reports from “people who sound reasonable” occurred “from the Stikine River north to Atlin Lake.” Reports of an oryx-like animal were disbelieved by the provincial fish and game, “But this has been going on for years now and this branch has never had one shred of evidence to show oryx are in the province.” One assistant director, Don Robinson, suggested they might be seeing some sort of goat with

long horns. He noted that just south of the Stikine River is the Spatsizi Plateau, and Spatsizi was supposedly “an Indian word which means ‘land of the red goat.’” An RCMP constable, Jack Buckley, had heard stories, but noted, “I’ve been doing a lot of flying around the country. I’ve been to Surprise Lake where the oryx are said to be and never a sign of one.” Robinson also noted that there had been reports of marmots as large as dogs, but atmospheric conditions and stunted trees likely created an illusion.

See *BioFortean Notes* #1 for a discussion of American ‘ibex’ folklore.

Cobb, M. 1966. Home, home in the North—Where deer and oryxes play. Vancouver, B.C., *Sun* (Jan. 13).

Fry, J. 1966. Either it is, oryx not. Victoria, B.C., *Daily Colonist* (Jan. 13).

Giant Vampire Bats

“Blood-sucking bats measuring 20 inches from tip to tip of extended wings are reported to be terrorizing inhabitants of the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, as the Egyptians were terrorized by the biblical plagues.

“Martiniano Caso, an Oaxaca farmer, who has just arrived here [Mexico City] to procure expert medical treatment for a young son, reports that so many children and animals have died in his native state recently from loss of blood to bats there is a movement on foot to appoint a commission to come to the capital and request the federal government’s aid in the matter.

“Six children, ranging in age from six months to four years, died in one night from the silent visitations of blood-sucking bats, according to Senor Caso, and this is in one small town.

“The bats are said to enter bedrooms noiselessly, settle down upon their sleeping victims with less disturbance than a falling leaf and suck blood so painlessly that even light sleepers are not awakened, except sometimes by a subconscious warning that something is wrong.”

The common vampire bat, *Desmodus rotundum*, has a wingspan of 7-8 inches. The largest extinct vampire bat, *Desmodus draculae*, may have had a wingspan of almost 20 inches (Naish 2013). Sadly, the idea

that this might be evidence of a surviving giant vampire bat, is on the low end of the probability scale. More likely to be a newspaper hoax (to fill space and entertain readers), or a mistaken belief that bats were the culprit in some other tragic circumstances. Of course, more ethnozoological research from Mexico would certainly be of interest.

Anon. 1926. Six are killed by giant bats. Richford, Vermont, *Journal and Gazette* (Sept. 3).

Naish, D. 2013. What did giant extinct vampire bats eat? *Tetrapod Zoology* (Scientific American platform) (July 14) <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/tetrapod-zoology/what-did-giant-extinct-vampire-bats-eat/>

H. C. RAVEN'S GIANT LIZARD

Henry ("Harry") Cushier Raven (1889-1944) started out in museum work, joining a number of expeditions to collect and prepare specimens. On many trips he worked alone, and in regions untraveled by other white men. He eventually studied under Dr. William K. Gregory (Comparative Anatomy) at the American Museum of Natural History. He had a particular interest in the anatomy of primates, and continued to work for the AMNH until his death in 1944 of malaria.

A brief news note was published in various papers in 1918, referencing a "giant lizard" that Raven came across "in the wilds of Borneo," and mentioned at a meeting of ichthyologists and herpetologists in New York. "Mr. Raven was amazed, he told the scientists, when he met the gigantic lizard in the jungle. He did not believe it was possible at first but definitely established that he had not been deceived by a mirage." The lizard measured sixteen feet from nose to tail.

As it happens, Raven's field notes for that period have been digitized by the Smithsonian and are available online. It appears that on May 6, 1912, Raven visited the Museum in Batavia, Java, (now Jakarta, Indonesia), and saw a mounted Komodo dragon that had been collected near Flores Island. Apparently, a news reporter either heard the story wrong, or decided to spice it up a bit. So, no, Raven does not appear to have encountered a giant monitor lizard in the wilds of Borneo. Other monitors are mentioned in his notes, but all of typical size.

- Anon. 1918. Giant lizard seen in Borneo jungle. Victoria, B.C., *Daily Times* (Nov. 16).
- Barton, D. R. 1941. One-Man Explorer. *Natural History* (June).
- Raven, Henry Cushier. *Field Journal, 1912-1914*. https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/fbr_item_modsi1227

POPCORN FISH REDUX

In *BioFortean Notes* #1, I noted reports of a ‘popcorn fish,’ brought to my attention by Kevin Stewart. This mystery fish was reported from the headwaters of the Yukon’s Peel River during a 1950s geological expedition. It supposedly had head lumps that resembled popcorn. Investigation by University of British Columbia scientists didn’t turn up any similar specimens. It was suggested that it might be an ordinary sculpin or sucker with abnormal head growths, possibly parasitic in nature.

There’s another reason that fish might have growths on their head, though. Some fish, like the lake chub (*Couesius plumbeus*), will grow tubercles (keratinized skin nodules) on their heads during spawning season. Some 24 species of fish have been identified in the Peel River watershed, including lake chub (Anderton 2006). Could the original witness have simply thought that tubercles were popcorn-like growths?

Anderton, I. 2006. *Peel River Watershed Fisheries Information Summary Report—Preliminary Assessment*. Whitehorse, YT: EDI Environmental Dynamics.

Anon. 1980. Popcorn fish? Aw, c’mon. Vancouver, B.C., *Sun* (Dec. 23).

TENNESSEE BLACK PANTHER

Larry Wood (2022) told the story of a black panther (“painter”) that chased his grandmother when she was a little girl. She was born in 1884 in Erasmus, near present-day Clifty (Cumberland County, TN). Walking home with her sister from a one-room schoolhouse, about a mile in distance, they heard a scream from a nearby ridge. As they ran home, the screams followed. Their mother heard the animal, and brought them inside and locked the cabin door. The animal continued to circle the cabin throughout the night, occasionally screaming

and once jumping on the roof. At dawn their father came home from an overnight trip, with his hunting dogs, and the animal disappeared. After hearing the story, he and the hounds set off and soon treed and shot it. Wood describes it: "From nose to tail, it was longer than she was tall. The tip of its long, slim tail curled up. It had a huge head, giant paws, and big, yellow eyes, glazed wide open. Its pelt was sleek and coal-black."

Wood recognized that wildlife officials don't accept melanistic cougar sightings, but argues that his grandmother saw what she saw. Of course, there's nothing in the account that points specifically at cougar. As noted in *BioFortean Notes* #7, a black leopard, non-native and accidental, probably makes as much sense for 'black panther' accounts where an actual large feline is probable (a low percentage of claims). It's a shame that physical evidence from that encounter isn't available.

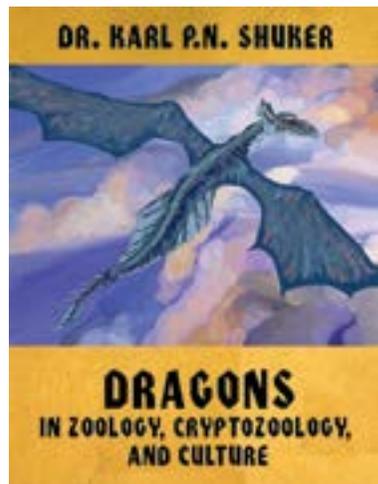
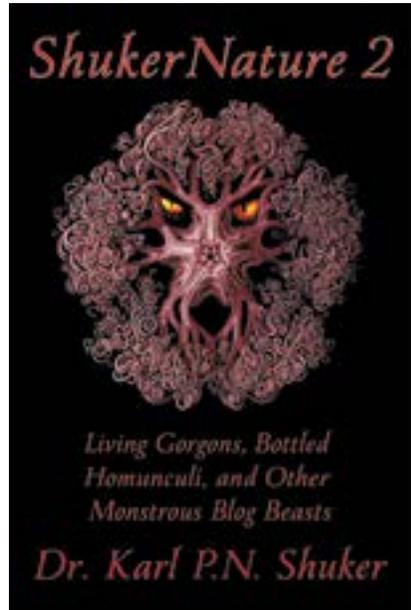
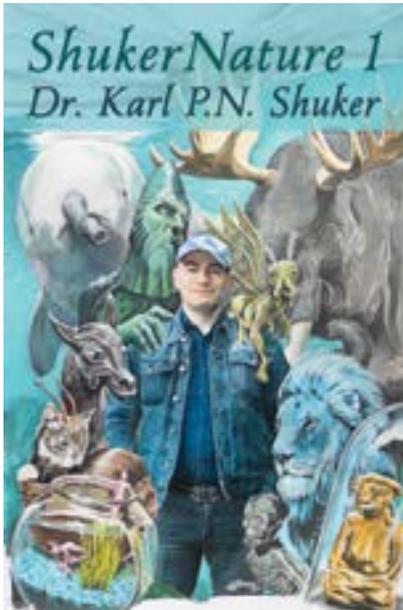
Woody, L. 2022. The day a panther chased Grandma. *Crossville Life* (June-July): 9, 19

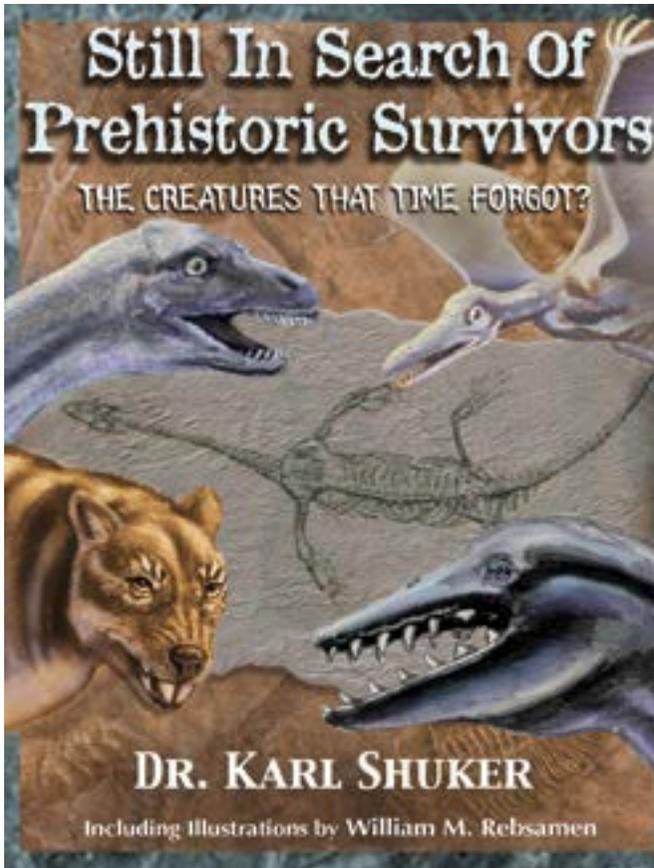
THE ACAPULCO TRACKS

Willits J. Hole (1858-1936) was a California real estate developer and avid fisherman. In his later years, he would take his yacht on expeditions to South America, joined by professional scientists and bringing back specimens. Fields (1933) noted a strange occurrence in 1932.

"These footprints,' declares Charles Davis, II, angler, naturalist and piscatorial historian, 'were not fossil tracks but fresh impressions only a few hours old at the time of discovery. Willits J. Hole, the explorer, made this great find only a year ago. Great three-toed tracks showed where the monster had come up out of the water onto the sands of Acapulco, walked along the beach, laid down, rolled, shaken itself and returned to the ocean. The tracks, according to Mr. Hole, showed the animal to be larger than any creature ever known to science. Perhaps the beast became alarmed at the approach of the man, who have given all he possessed could he have actually seen this "Thing of Acapulco."'

Fields, B. 1933. "Sea monsters don't exist" . . . says Science; "But we've seen them" . . . say these men. *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine* (Feb. 19); 10, 20.





Still in Search of Prehistoric Survivors

Dr. Karl Shuker

This expanded update of Dr. Shuker's classic book is well worth obtaining. Reports of creatures thought long extinct fill the cryptozoological literature, and Dr. Shuker examines them with an eye towards likely explanations while pointing out where new discoveries might be made.

The Kongamato

Frank H. Melland

From: *In Witch-Bound Africa* (1923)

THE PTERODACTYL

After hearing about the charm which is used against the *kongamato*, and the powers attributed to it, I asked "What is the *kongamato*?" The answer was, "A bird." "What kind of bird?" "Oh, well it isn't a bird really: it is more like a lizard with membranous wings like a bat." I write this down verbatim because I was not in the least thinking of, nor seeking for, information as to any prehistoric animals or reptiles. It came on me quite unexpectedly.

Rhodesia and the neighbourhood has rather a bad reputation for brontosaurus yarns: there was one about 1909 from Lake Bangweulu, another 1919, from Katanga. The former I discredited,¹ as I knew the area well, and I discredited it chiefly on two grounds: (a) that the local natives whom I knew intimately had never heard of such an animal, and had not even a tradition about one; (b) that in any inhabited area no such animal could exist without its spoor at least being seen. The second reason also discredited the 1919 report.

In this case it seems that the rumour is free from both objections. The reptile is known to the natives, and it is possible that its spoor would not be seen.

Further enquiries disclosed the "facts" that the wing-spread was from 4 to 7 feet across, that the general colour was red. It was believed to have no feathers but only skin on its body, and was believed to have teeth in its beak: these last two points no one could be sure

¹ *Vide Geographical Journal*, Oct., 1911 (p. 393).

of, as no one ever saw a *kongamoto* close and lived to tell the tale. I sent for two books which I had at my house, containing pictures of pterodactyls, and every native present immediately and unhesitatingly picked it out and identified it as a *kongamoto*. Among the natives who did so was a headman (Kanyinga) from the Jiundu country, where the *kongamoto* is supposed to be active, and who is a rather wild and quite unsophisticated native.

The natives assert that this flying reptile still exists, and whether this be so or no it seems to me that there is presumptive evidence that it has existed within memory of man, within comparatively recent days. Whether it is scientifically possible that a reptile that existed in the mesozoic age could exist in the climatic conditions of to-day I have not the necessary knowledge to decide; but it must be remembered that the hippopotamus, which was contemporary with the giant sloth, still lives here; as does the crocodile, which was on the world when the first tree came into existence.

The evidence for the pterodactyl is that the natives can describe it so accurately, unprompted, and that they all agree about it. There is negative support also in the fact that they said they could not identify any other of the prehistoric monsters which I showed them.

The evidence against it lies in the fact that no bribe will induce one to take me to see one, nor to get one to produce a dead one, nor even a bit of one. They say that (a) very few people see a *kongamoto* and live; (b) it is invulnerable, will eat any missile thrown at it, and that it is immortal, so that no remains are ever found.

The natives do not consider it to be an unnatural thing like a *mulombe*, only a very awful thing, like a man-eating lion or rogue elephant, *but infinitely worse*. Some say it is seen, some say its presence is only felt, but all know what it is like.

The latest known (?) case of its activities is stated to have been in 1911, when two men and two women were killed by a *kongamoto* in the Mutanda River near to Lufumatunga village. Sceptics point out that when the said people were killed the river was naturally in flood, and that there were no witnesses as to the manner of death. I think this may be taken as evidence in the belief of the powers of the *kongamoto* and no more. I admit I have no faith in these powers; but I do believe that some such reptile exists or has existed recently; and

the sight of such an unusual and fearsome thing would naturally give rise to a belief in supernatural powers.

Chief Kapiji Mpanga Mwandwe tells me that when the late Mr. George Grey was here in 1897 he (the chief) understood from the traveller's followers that Mr. Grey had shot a *kongamato* at some previous date, near to Fort Jameson (N.E. Rhodesia). I fancy Kapiji got hold of the wrong end of the story, for I never heard that Mr. Grey did so, and I am sure that, if he had, he would have recorded the fact.²

The following further attributes of the *kongamato* have been sent me by C.H.H. since I left the country; and although they are—like those already mentioned—probably due to the fertile imagination of some frightened traveller, they may as well be recorded. Sometimes when a man is in a boat the boat slows down and then becomes stationary in spite of the paddler's efforts. Then he knows that a *kongamato* has caught hold of it underneath. This gives some attributes of amphibiousness to the *kongamato* which seem extra mythical; and one cannot help wondering what happens to the unfortunate paddler!

From the same source I hear that when a *kongamato* eats a person, he eats no more than the two little toes, the two little fingers, the lobes of the ears and the nostrils. I cannot say, however, if anyone claims to have ever found the remains of one slain and mutilated in this fashion.

I have mentioned the Jiundu swamp as one of the reputed haunts of the *kongamato*, and I must say that the place itself is the very kind of place in which such a reptile might exist, if it is possible anywhere. Some fifty square miles of swamp, formed by an inland delta, as shown in the accompanying sketch map: the Jiundu River spreading out into innumerable channels, and—after receiving several tributaries, reuniting further down into a single stream of crystal-clear water. Much, however, that flows into the swamp does not come out, but vanishes below ground, as many rivers and streams do in these parts. The whole of the swamp is covered with dense vegetation: big trees that grow to a great height, tangled undergrowth with matted

² Since this was written I have had the opportunity of asking Mr. Charles Grey and he says that he never heard his brother mention this.

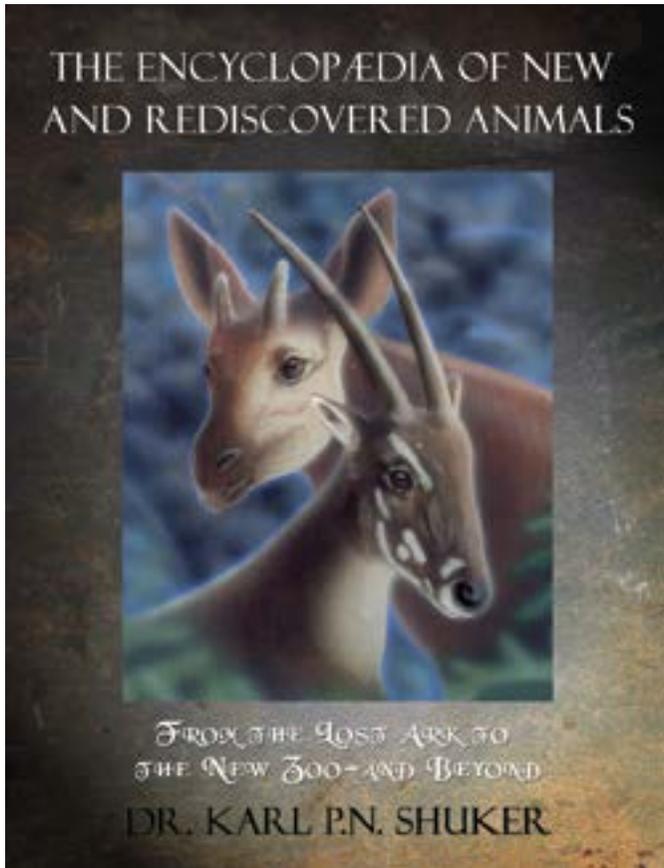
creepers and beautiful ferns. The soil is moist loam and decaying vegetation, the main channels and lesser rivulets being reminiscent of the peat hags on a highland moor. It is a reproduction on a big scale of the groves of swamp timber that one sees by most streams (*jitu*) but which I, personally, have not met with in such size except by the Semliki mouth in western Uganda. The whole of the country is of a limestone formation, and outside the swamps, even between the stretches of timber, outcrops are plentiful. In one place just to the west of the area there is a big hole resembling a crater. Nowhere else on high, well-drained ground have I seen such a morass: nor could one conjure up a more perfect picture of a haunted forest.

If there be a *kongamoto* this is indeed an ideal home for it.

This swamp has an historical as well as this zoological and possibly mythical interest, for until recently it was the asylum of hundreds of outlaws. Murderers, thieves, mere tax-defaulters, all kinds of criminals and lawbreakers, sought refuge in its fastnesses. There in great discomfort they lived, secure from the Government and its servants. Efforts were made to get at them, but with no success. A uniformed man—or any possible enemy—approaching within sight was shot at by unseen outlaws hiding in the jungle. Six years ago these swamps were peopled thus. To-day the outlaws have all left and live in decent villages alongside their former refuge. They have cut a road through the swamp bridging the numerous streams and corduroying the wettest patches, by which one can now pass in comfort—except in the rains. The days of the outlaw colony and of our engagements there are a thing of the past. Last year, besides my own family, others with women and children passed through the swamp, and two English girls went through without any escort.

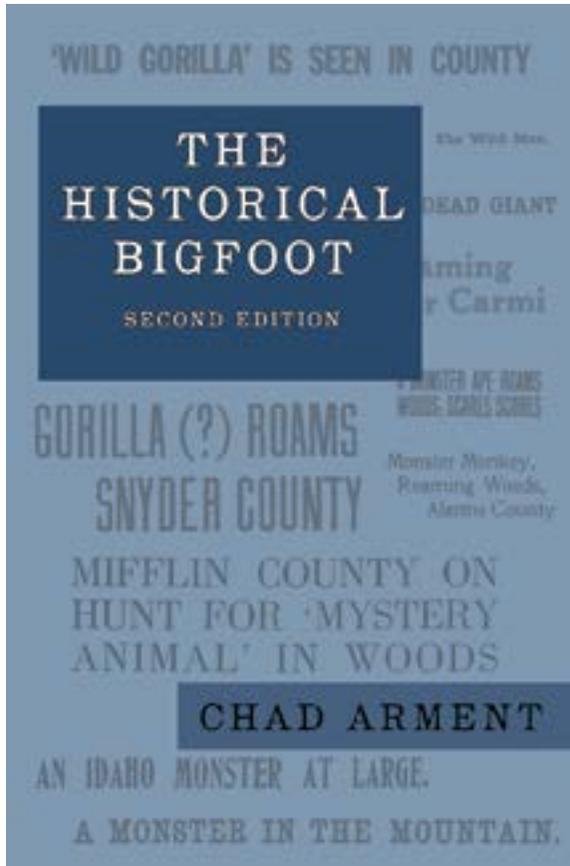
The human inhabitants are no longer there. Has the winged reptile got this swamp-forest all to himself; or is he, too, but a story that is told?

COACHWHIPBOOKS.COM



The Encyclopaedia of New and Rediscovered Animals
Dr. Karl Shuker

This updated edition of an encyclopedia of zoological discoveries and rediscoveries makes fascinating reading for wildlife lovers and cryptozoology fans. New and entrancing species throughout the animal kingdom pour from every well-illustrated chapter.



The Historical Bigfoot
Second Edition
Chad Arment

Hairy wild men, wandering yahoos, what-is-it's, gorillas in the woods, and more manlike beasts roamed the newsprint of North America long before the word "Bigfoot" became cemented in popular culture. This updated and expanded edition lays a groundwork for understanding the folkloric variation in Bigfoot stories, necessary for any critical cryptozoological investigation.

