

385 - I'm not sure if you get this, (which is very erratic) - hence this xerox as it contains a few useful clips. Janet.

Creature Chronicles

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HAS BIGFOOT RETURNED TO NORTHEAST OHIO?

Recently, we have heard through sources that something 7½ feet tall is roaming the vicinity of Newcomerstown, Ohio. In fact, footprints have been discovered that are at least 14 inches long and 7 inches wide. Don Keating has been investigating the incidents. At this printing, no names have been made public.

Tuscarawas County Sheriff Harold McKinnie even received a call about a sighting since he took office. Police Chief James Friel, of Newcomerstown said that he responded to another call.

Researcher, Tom Archer called me last week to report on what he had. Archer explained that people are not willing to talk with investigators. He also stated that there has been recent activity in Minerva, but those witnesses are unwilling to talk. (For those who may not be aware of the past activity in Minerva, refer to my 1979 case study #009.) The main reason for all the silence is due to the "vigilante factor" and witness harassment by unprofessional investigators.

It would be wrong to make an assessment on these events at present without further information. Hopefully, more details will become available in the future. If anyone else has more on this, please pass it along.

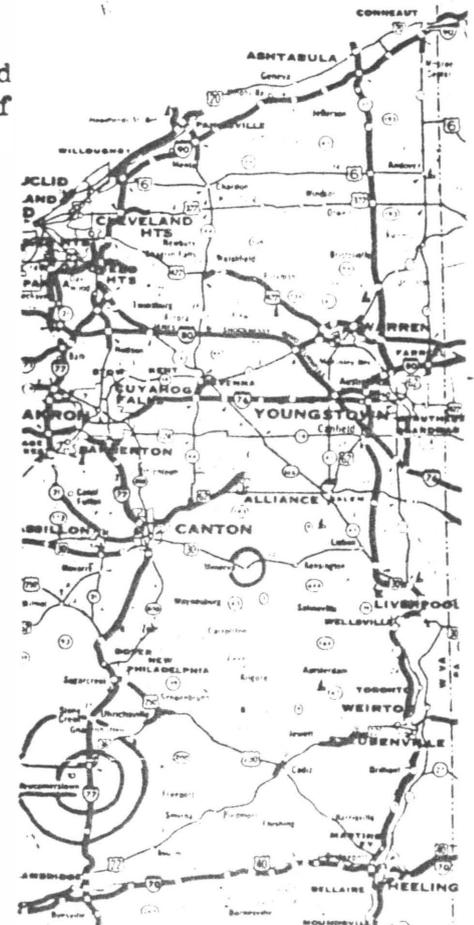
Source: T. Archer

LOVELAND FROG REKINDLED

In CREATURE CHRONICLES #4, I reviewed this strange case of a lizzard-type animal that manifested itself to a pair of Loveland police officers on two separate occasions. Now, following two articles in the local paper, both of their real names have been made public. I would also like to note that the story in this paper is incorrect. (see clippings)

It now appears that there is allegedly more witnesses from the 1950's to the present. However, this researcher is having problems obtaining further information, as the newspaper's editor claims witness confidentiality and is very evasive. My intuition says publicity hoax to advertise the city of Loveland and the scenic Little Miami River trail, but then people are seeing something.

When we first interviewed the police officers years back, we dismissed the iguana hypothesis, because it was much too cold. Contrary to what the newspaper says, the officer's sightings were during the first week of March, 1972, not in July.



RECOMMENDED READING: CHAMP - BEYOND THE LEGEND by JOSEPH W. ZARZYNSKI
© 1984 Bannister Publications ISBN 0-916885-00-3
\$8.95 + \$1.25 postage. N.Y. residents add 7% tax.

For those of you who wonder why I do not elaborate more on aquatic creatures in this publication the answer is two fold. First of all, the Ohio Valley is not known for such activity. Secondly, there are many leading authorities in the world that specialize in this research and produce fine publications.

One such figure is Joseph Zarzynski. He is the editor of *Champ Channels*; a newsletter that deals with *Champ*; the alleged creature of Lake Champlain. Zarr's book deals with this saga with objectivity and somewhat a scientific method. There is no sensationalism, just the facts as reported to him. There is geographical and biological background information to help the reader understand the possibilities for *Champ*'s existence. To order: M-Z Information, Box 2129, Wilton, N.Y. 12866

Reward offered Alleged dog-sized frog on loose

By Eric Spangler
Staff Reporter

Look out *Nessie*. Loveland has a rumor that will make you croak.

While Scotland's Loch Ness Monster may be famous worldwide, Loveland's persistent "Little Miami River Monster" rumor has been quietly hanging around the lips of this city for years.

Exactly what the "monster" is, no one is quite sure. But through various sightings, usually at night along the normally calm Little Miami river, many people now believe the monster is a large frog.

The rumors go back many years, said one businessman who refused to be identified. A life-long Loveland resident, the man said he first heard the tale of a large frog living in the river in the 1950s.

"It's been something that's been around for a long time," he said. "Usually it was kids who have seen this thing and nobody believed them."

But the "monster" gained notoriety, if not fame, in July of 1972 when two Loveland police officers spotted the creature on two separate occasions. Officer Ray Schocke first saw the creature in a field on Twilight Road and told other officers about the sighting.

Two days later, officer Mark Matthews saw it and fired his service revolver at the animal. Matthews has since started his own business and moved to Florida and Schocke, who is still with the Loveland police department, refuses to discuss the sighting.

"Those two officers took a lot of flack about the sighting back then," said another businessman, who wished not to be identified. People made fun of both the officers and the city, he said.

Matthews, in a 1983 interview, identified the creature as an iguana. Unsure initially of what he saw, Matthews had a zoo curator help him identify what he saw.

"You can buy them (iguanas) at Shillitos or in a pet store, but they're little," he said. "When you see one two feet long, you don't know what it is."

Matthews explained that he wished the incident never happened. "That thing got out of hand and was blown all out of proportion. It wasn't any big

deal," he said. "It was like standing in a field and bombs were dropping all around you."

The rumor has continued to persist since then, but local people have been very reluctant to speak publicly about the rumor.

But now, after an increased number of sightings over the past two years, a group of about 20 businesses have raised \$2,000 for the capture of this creature by legal means and are offering \$50 for a photograph of the animal. "The businessmen don't want to be laughed at," said the spokesperson for the businessmen.

"Nobody wants to look stupid," he said. But after the opening of the Little Miami River Bike Trail, more and more adults have been seeing something very large near the river, he said. "We know it's there. We just want to find out what it is and how big it is."

Two weeks ago, a pair of boys were skipping stones across the river when they saw what they described as a very large frog. "I thought it was a boulder at first," said the 11-year-old who did not want to be identified. "Then it jumped and I was sure it was a frog," he said.

The boy described the frog as about the size of a big dog and about four-feet wide.

"There is no way a frog could grow that big," said Dave Jardine, head of reptiles for the Cincinnati Zoo. "I wish there was, though, because I'd be out there looking for it."

Under optimum feeding conditions, a normal bullfrog would grow wide at its girth, or only about the size of a coffee saucer, he said.

But whatever the creature may be, Lovelanders are certain that *Nessie* is turning green with envy, and maybe even hopping mad about the renewed interest in the Loveland frog.
(Copyright-1985-Cincinnati Suburban Press)

Loveland Herald (Ohio)
7/18/85

(Note: Hard-back edition is available at \$16.95)

Columbus
Dispatch
12/2/84
(Ohio)

Credit:
T. Archer

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'Ape man' skeleton offers clues

PEKING (AP) — The discovery in northeast China of an almost complete skeleton of an "ape man" of about 1 million to 200,000 B.C. provides new clues as to how modern man's direct predecessor looked and moved, an archaeologist says.

Peking University archaeologist Lu Zun'er's team found the homo erectus fossils on Sept. 27 in a cave at the foot of Gold Ox Hill in Yinkou County, Liaoning Province.

The official English-language *China Daily* quoted Lu last week as saying the "unprecedented" find enables scientists to reassess "a crucial step in human evolution."

SPECULATION about the upright posture and walking gait of homo erectus now can be tested, he said. The homo erectus preceded homo sapiens, modern man, and advanced evolution by developing the use of fire and stone tools.

Lu said unique specimens of hand, foot, spine, rib and arm bones, and all the head bones except the lower jaw were included in the skeleton discovered at Liaoning, 400 miles northeast of Peking.

"Bones of the hands and ulna (arm), spine and hip are indispensable for research on early man's ability to move his upper body and to use his hands in working, especially in making tools," Lu said.

"THE COMPLETENESS of the head bones... will provide more reliable data for reconstructing the facial features of homo erectus, for studying brain capacity and for looking into the relationship between tooth wear and age," he said.

Lu said he expected to find more fossils at Gold Ox Hill.



A "LIVING UNICORN," or goat, if you will, poses with a colleague from the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Circus Showing Goat In Unicorn's Clothing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—After a careful federal inspection, here's the verdict on the star of this year's circus: It's a goat, but if you want to call it a unicorn, it's a unicorn.

Dr. Gerald Toms, the U.S. Agriculture Department's chief veterinarian in Albany, said Wednesday that the "living unicorn" now at Madison Square Garden with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus is a goat and was medically altered as a kid to give it a single horn, like the gentle creatures of fable.

The same goes for three understudies, said Toms, who sent federal inspectors to examine the animals Tuesday evening but did not personally inspect them.

He said it was probable that the goats suffered no pain or cruelty, and that they are being well-treated by the circus.

Since "The Greatest Show on Earth" opened last week, the ASPCA and animal lovers have denounced the unicorn promotion as a hoax. They alleged the goats had been subjected to inhumane implants of bulls' horns.

Circus vice president Allen Bloom retorted that the creature's horns was "living, vital tissue, not an implant," and Toms agreed.

The veterinarian said the goats appeared to have undergone a simple graft in which their own natural horn was made to grow in an unnatural part of their heads.

"If you use anesthesia and it's done by a competent person, it's basically a simple tissue graft," he said.

"I'm glad we got a clean bill of health from the Agriculture Department," said Debbie Linde, a circus spokesman.

In the spirit of P.T. Barnum, the circus stepped up its tub-thumping with a new, full-page newspaper ad to cash in on the brouhaha.

"Don't Let the Grinches Steal the Fantasy" said the ad. "Come See For Yourself: The Living Unicorn!"

John Kullberg, the director of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who had asked for the federal inspection, said the ASPCA would not charge the circus with cruelty to animals.

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Sea Creature May Be Real

CLEVELAND—Recent reports of a gargantuan, unidentifiable creature swimming in Lake Erie shouldn't be taken lightly, according to biology professor Andrew White.

White, of John Carroll University, said the fact that the people making the reports have seemed genuinely scared means their accounts can't be dismissed as tall tales.

The something they saw is generally described in terms that make it sound like the sea serpents pictured on antique maps.

Roy Mackal of Chicago, a former biology professor and one of the founders of the International Society of Cryptozoology, theorizes that the animal might be a sea snake, which could have entered the lake via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
6/17/85

Ford Auto Parts Arrive Equipped With Spiders

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT—Poisonous black widow spiders have been riding the rails and highways from a plastics plant in Mexico to a Ford plant in Michigan where they pop out of parts on assembly lines and scare workers.

At least two dozen black widows have been found since June 25 in dashboard parts sent to a Ford Motor Co. plastics plant in Saline, Mich., company and United Auto Workers union officials said Tuesday.

"There has been no injury as a result of any of this, but it obviously is thoroughly disquieting," Ford spokesman William Selover said.

"The sorting racks (holding the parts) apparently have hollow tubing and the suspicion is that these spiders were hitchhiking in the tubing," he said.

Black widows are about the size of a grape and are characterized by a red hourglass shape on their bellies, according to H. D. Cameron, arachnid

curator at the University of Michigan's Zoology Museum in Ann Arbor. The spiders' bites usually aren't deadly, but symptoms include chills, fever, sweating, abdominal cramps, vomiting and pain.

"If you are bitten by a black widow, you will know it," Cameron said. "You'll be sick, really sick, for two days and then it'll be over."

Ford's efforts to stop the unwanted immigrants have included ringing its 175,000-square-foot Carplastics Plant in Monterrey, Mexico, with a three-foot-wide strip of insecticide, fumigating racks in Monterrey and Saline, hand inspecting the dashboard parts and torching the racks to burn out the spiders.

The company now is dipping the parts racks in insecticide before loading them on trucks and rail cars for shipment.

The last spider was seen a week ago, nearly a month after an assembly worker at the Saline plant first discovered one.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
7/24/85

Roots for frog tale lie in lizard lore?

One recent source of a Loveland frog legend may date back to an incident recorded in a 1972 issue of the Loveland Herald. An excerpt follows...

LOVELAND * Red Monster Found?

Once again the Little Miami River monster had reared its ugly head. This time it was found in the front yard of a home on Anschutz Drive.

The resident was returning home from the grocery store when she saw the monster in her yard. She screamed and ran into the house. After calming herself and telling herself she was being silly, she went outside to inspect "the thing". She described it as having one leg, no hair, red in color, sponge-like and dead.

She called the police, who she said came and inspected it, and told her "if no one claimed it within 30 days, she could have it". They left, leaving the monster behind. She then called her brother, a member of the fire department. Neighbors gathered to view the monster.



Later, another police cruise arrived. After it left, she said the monster was gone.

One person familiar with the river, said it may have been some type of lizard, known locally as water dog or water puppy. He said the lizard is red, has gills, and lives both in water and on land.

Whatever this poor creature was, dead or alive, we're certain we have not heard the last of the Little Miami River monster. After all, Loch Ness has had its monster for years, and the Abominable Snowman, is still wandering about the Himalayas. Loveland's monster has a lot of good years left to make itself known, to grow and enrich itself with age. As it has been said, "You're not getting older, you're getting better."

Loveland Herald (Ohio)
7/18/85

Disease Proves Folklore Right

'Vampires,' 'Werewolves' Suffer Blood Affliction

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—People who once were shunned as vampires or werewolves may actually have been afflicted by a rare disease that is aggravated by sunlight and garlic, and leaves its victims with prominent teeth, hairy faces and pain, a chemist reported Thursday.

"When you suffer from this disease (porphyria) and you go out in the sunshine, you get badly disfigured, just awful loss of skin, and your nose can fall off," said David Dolphin, a chemistry professor at the University of British Columbia.

"ALL SORTS of nasty damage occurs," he added. "Fingers can fall off. It looks like you have paws instead of hands. Although your teeth get no larger, your lips and gums get very taut so your teeth are more prominent. To cap all of this, the people who suffer from this form of the disease become hairy."

Porphyria, an inherited disease, is caused by a malfunctioning of the body's ability to create heme, or red blood pigment. People who suffer from the disease today can be treated with blood pigment.

Scientists have previously suggested that the werewolves of folklore may have been victims of a rare form of porphyria, said Dr. Jerry Gardner of the National Institutes of Health. But Dolphin extended the theory to vampires during a Thursday symposium at the annual meeting of the Ameri-

can Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dolphin said people with the disease "learn that when the sun comes up, you go inside. One of the better clinical treatments is an injection of heme, the red pigment in blood. My theory is that in the Middle Ages, if you couldn't get an injection of heme—which you clearly couldn't—the next best thing would be to drink a lot of blood."

THE IDEA of using garlic to keep vampires away may stem from the fact it contains dialkyl disulfide, which is very similar to chemicals that severely aggravate porphyria by destroying a heme protein called cytochrome P450, Dolphin said. That would give porphyria victims reason to avoid garlic, he added.

Norine Dresser, who teaches folklore at California State University-Los Angeles, called the vampire-werewolf theory "wonderful. It just validates the whole notion that within folklore there is truth."

Dr. Nathan Bass, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco, expressed skepticism about the theory, saying that "to try to elaborate every aspect of the vampire and werewolf myth based on what we understand of the chemistry of the disease would be really stretching it."

Bass said he doubted people with porphyria would have craved blood, and knows of no victims who were harmed by garlic.

Mutilations Blamed On Satan Worshippers

MARYSVILLE, Ohio—Officials say groups that worship Satan may be to blame for as many as 200 animal mutilations in Union County, and that teen-agers appear to be particular targets for recruitment by the cultists. Union County Sheriff's Deputy John V. Lala said his investigation indicates cultists often torture lambs, dogs and other animals before sacrificing them, then eat the animals' flesh and drink their blood.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
4/16/85

Coyote Bounty Bill A Howling Success

COLUMBUS, Ohio—With barks and hoots that traditionally accompany consideration of bills dealing with dogs, the House Thursday approved by an 84-7 vote legislation to permit counties to offer \$50 bounties for the capture or killing of coyotes and "coydogs."

Even before sponsoring Rep. Jack Cera, D-Bellaire, began his floor speech, he knew from the sounds and laughter in the chamber that he was in for some good-natured kidding.

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope those were affirmative (barks)," Cera joked. "I can't tell you how much I've looked forward to this, Mr. Speaker."

The animals have been accused of causing costly damage to farm livestock. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
5/10/85

Hefty Slave Labor

FROM ENQUIRER WIRES

Certain species of ants live solely on slave labor, enslaving other ants for life. A typical colony of 3,000 western slavemaking ants may have more than 6,000 slaves working for it, says *National Geographic*.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
4/10/85

Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)
5/31/85



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