

Creature Chronicles

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INDEPENDENT INFORMATION
AND NEWS SERVICE ON
WILDLIFE PHENOMENA

FROM THE EDITOR:

Our readers have probably noticed the development of changes in this publication. Over the past few years, we have become more of an outlet to the subject of Wildlife Phenomena. This terminology is broader than just Cryptozoology; the study of hidden animals. We have been dealing with known animals for some time now, but what makes the stories different are the strange things they are known to do. Specifically, their impact on the environment and to the human race. In some instances this news has no real research purpose, except to show us how strange this planet really is. Other issues merit research, such as the alligators, which seem to be fighting back to the progress of man.

When we issued Creature Chronicles #1, in 1980, we were basically a newsletter on Bigfoot. We still investigate and research this phenomena. There are reasons why we have been expanding deeper into Cryptozoology and animal oddities. One cannot write everything on the Sasquatch, for it would become repetitious, since many of the alleged cases have been mauled over time and time again. Of course, we will report on the recent encounters. Since we have always been interested in strange creatures and wildlife, why not combine the two and print oddities of mother nature. After all, if scientifically known animals impact us on an unusual basis, isn't that a phenomena?

Our intent is not to be like "THAT'S INCREDIBLE"; that infamous television production. We are not interested, say if Joe's dog can play third base, or if Sally's cat uses the toilet. However, if you are driving down the highway and see a tiger on the road, we will print it. Especially, if its going the wrong way.

To the advocate Cryptozoologist; do not be concerned. We still plan on covering these events as long as the information flow comes in. Yes, we still have a great interest in the Sasquatch, lake monsters, strange creatures, etc., even though we freely admit it is on a skeptical basis.

As usual, we are late with this publication again. Therefore, this issue will contain more information. The number of pages will remain the same, but with the use of elite type, we can increase the format. This issue's accent is on the reptilians; such as the alligators, snakes and even a swamp slob called "Lizardman".

If you saw an asterisk (*) on the mailing address, it simply means that we haven't heard from you in quite sometime. Since this is an exchange publication, we need to have an information flow. If we do not receive some sort of exchange in the near future, we will be forced to terminate your name from our list. R.S.

Reptilian Flap: 1987-88

Here is an attempt to chronologically list some of man's confrontations with our old friends, the reptiles. We try to present some of the incidents in a humorous manner, however there are a couple of stories which have a tragic ending. At any rate, it could be argued that the animal kingdom has the will to fight back when driven from their environment, or their frustration from being caged pets.



"That's right. I am wearing my new alligator sports shoes. Now what's the problem?"

GATORS & CROCS

1. 7/13/87-Tallahassee, Florida- An 11 foot, 415 pound alligator drowned and partially ate a man who was snorkling in Wakulla Springs State Park. The victim was 22 year old George Cummings of Tallahassee. Witnesses on a glass-bottom boat said that minutes after they saw Cummings swimming, they observed a man's head and part of a torso hanging from the mouth of the alligator. The creature was hunted and shot by wildlife officials. Chicago Tribune 7/14/87, Chicago Sun-Times 7/16/87.
2. 8/20/87-Detroit, Michigan- Residents in the suburb of Bloomfield Hills have reported a crocodilian lurking about in Square Lake. One of the four witnesses, Gary Brown said the creature was about 3 feet long and appeared to be an alligator or crocodile. Steve Graham, of the Detroit Zoo said he believes it to be a caiman, which can be purchased through the mail or an exotic pet store. Animal welfare investigators found nothing. Saginaw News 8/23/87.
Mr. Graham has been a very busy man over the last couple of years. First it was panthers; now crocs! (see C.C.#12)ed.
3. 11/9/87-Madras, India- A 7 foot long crocodile emerged from a sewer into a crowded street and caused quite a stir with residents. People tried to kill the beastie with rocks, but the croc kept emerging back into the sewer, except to show its teeth at by-passers. The croc was finally overpowered by authorities by stuffing burlap sacks into its mouth. Asbury Park Press 11/10/87
4. 12/26/87-Port Charlotte, Florida- Lynnette M. Azbill, aged 12 survived an attack by a 3½ foot gator by grabbing its jaws after the reptile reached for her legs. The episode occurred in a canal behind McGuire Park. She was treated and released from St. Joseph Hospital. Asbury Park Press 12/27/87

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5. 4/11/88-Coca, Florida- An alligator weighing about 275 pounds and about 9 feet decided to go shopping at a carpet warehouse. The gator toppled a linoleum rack and a pile of rugs before the authorities could capture it. The creature sent customers scurrying out of Wells Carpet Distributors. The gator must have crawled through a rear door that was left ajar. Detroit News 4/13/88

6. 6/4/88-Englewood, Florida- A 10½ foot alligator lunged and grabbed a 4 year old girl from Hidden Lake. Around midnight, game officers found the gator carrying the limp body of Erin Groover. The reptile was shot and killed only after authorities shot at point blank with a shot gun and a .357 magnum. The young girl had been wading in the water with two friends and she must have accidentally kicked the animal. At that point, the creature jumped up, bit her twice and dragged her into the water. Cincinnati Enquirer, St. Louis Dispatch 6/6/88

7. 10/14/88-Wadsworth, Nevada- Jack Maughan reportedly observed an alligator while walking along the bank of the Truckee River. He described the beast as being 3-4 feet long with a snub-nose. Maughan's son, Bryan said that he saw it on the 16th. Jim Curran of the state's fishery believes that the gator was a released pet and that it might not survive the near-freezing waters. Circleville (Ohio) Herald 10/22/88

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Here are two more interesting incidents of alligators. Although these cases are prior to 1987, we felt they should be included in the listing:

1. 10/6/83-Mequon, Wisconsin- Two trappers hunting for a muskrat confronted a 31 inch alligator in a pond in this suburban town near Milwaukee. Milt Wille, who is a game management instructor quickly bagged the animal, but had problems releasing the reptile into a cage, as it became very aggressive, whipping its tail back and forth. Wille and the Department of Natural Resources believe that it is a caiman type that was purchased and then released by someone. Milwaukee Journal 10/8/83, 10/9/83, Madison State Journal 10/9/88

2. Week of 9/15/86-Pewaukee Lake, Wisconsin- Ron Leys, who is the Outdoors Editor for the Milwaukee Journal believes that an alligator inhabits the lake. He basis his theory on an incident that occurred during the week. A couple were fishing the north shore and netted a 27 inch northern pike. AS Lance Lemke reeled in the pike, they noticed a giant boil in the water following the fish. The pike had slashes, gouges and teeth marks down both sides. There have been no actual sightings of alligators. Others believe it to be a large muskie. Milwaukee Journal 9/21/86

STORIES OF SNAKES:

1. 4/27/87-Omaha, Nebraska- Herman Fergeuon's attempt to smoke out a snake from a hole behind his house ended up in about \$6,000 in damages. Fergeuon told the authorities that he became frustrated after all attempts to rid the snake failed. He tried to burn the hole with newspaper, but the flames spread to the plywood and up the back of the house onto the roof. Chicago Tribune 4/30/87

2. 8/6/87-Madison, Wisconsin- Richard Gaffney's 12½ foot pet python seized the right hand and arm of his girlfriend, Kathy Stremcha. The snake had the girl's hand in its mouth by the time the fire department arrived. Rescuers wore leather

gloves and forced the python's mouth open and freed Stremcha's hand. She was hospitalized and released. Meanwhile, the snake is homeless, as Gaffney gave it to the zoo. Gaffney told authorities that the attack was not provoked and did not occur at feeding time. St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch 8/8&9/87

3. 8/12/87-Hamilton, Ontario, Canada- Mrs. Laurie Lamothe claims to have a boa constrictor in the toilet of her 12th-floor flat. Her neighbor's pet boa is lodged in the drainpipes and has already made an appearance. Officials attempted to bait the 6 foot 6 inch snake by leaving dead rats on the floor. Daily Post (England) 8/13/87

4. 8/20/87-Ft. Walton Beach, Florida- Edward Cullom was bit by a rattlesnake hiding in a plant at the Wal-Mart discount store. Cullom said he thought that he was pricked by a thorn, but when he picked up the plant, he was struck again. When he pulled his hand back, the snake was hanging off his finger. He threw the snake down and stomped on its head. Cullom was hospitalized with nausea, blurred vision and a swollen hand. Rescuers said the snake was a 14 inch pygmy rattler. Cleveland Plain Dealer 8/21/87

5. 8/18/87-Sabirabad, Republic of Azerbaijan, Soviet Union- The Soviet newspaper Prava reported that 11 year old Matanet woke up in a tomato patch from a nap holding her throat and choking. Her family rushed her to a clinic where she was forced to vomit and a 25 inch snake came up. Snake expert, Tauakgyul Iskenderov said that the reptile was a Caucasian cat snake. Houston Chronicle 8/20/87

6. 9/29/87-Melbourne, Florida- An 8 foot long python was discovered on the porch of Becky Lambert. Her husband was running around the house to keep the pets away. Judy Billings, who is an animal control officer arrived and captured the snake. She found no reports of missing pythons, but said it looked well-cared for. She stated that some snakes are bred in captivity in Florida and sold as pets. Chicago Tribune 10/4/87

7. 10/19/87-Sulphur, Oklahoma- Police Chief, Perry Allen and Animal Control Officer, John Pierce found themselves in a tug-of-war with a 15 foot Burmese python. The snake had been sighted in a vacant lot, where the officials held the tail and got a noose around the head. The snake had apparently escaped two months ago. Asbury Press 10/20/87

8. 10/28/87-Xenia, Ohio- Duane Cooper's 5 year old Indian python turned up missing after his family left the house for a while. Deputies believe that a burglar may have tried to get in, but saw the snake and fled. Meanwhile, bulletins were circulating among the Green County Sheriff's Department. The description is of a 35 foot long, 340 pound snake with an appetite for guinea pigs. Asbury Press 10/27/87.

9. 11/4/87 (approximate date)-Bremen, West Germany- An unidentified man left his 9 foot python in the bathroom of his apartment while he went out. While he was gone, his snake turned on the lever-style tap and flooded his apartment and the ones below. Philadelphia Inquirer 11/5/87

10. 3/4/88-Crystal City, Virginia- Rod McIntosh, a mechanic at Budget Rent-a-Car found a dead 4 foot boa constrictor when he removed the glove compartment

of a 1987 Nissan. The company traced the renter to Rose Gray and contacted her to say that her snake was dead. Gray said the snake belonged to a friend and that it slithered behind the dash while on a ride about two weeks ago. When the car was returned, employees quickly searched the car, but could find no lost boa. The auto sat in the sun for some time and a pungent smell developed. Mechanics disassembled the car again and found the remains curled up underneath the dashboard. Laurie Bingaman of the National Zoo's reptile house said that she gets about a half dozen calls a year from people who have lost snakes in cars. Washington Post 3/5/88

11. 8/3/88-Baltimore, Maryland- A 12 foot python was captured in a yard after three police officers pried the snake from a tree it had wrapped itself around. Since nobody has claimed the reptile, the city of Baltimore plans to bid the snake away at an auction. The Baltimore Zoo will examine the snake to determine its health. Asbury Park Press 8/23/88

12. 9/9/88-Washington, D.C.- Mary Haugaard woke up to find a Burmese python eyeing her and the pet cat. The 7 foot snake was standing up in her bed watching. Haugaard's resident manager called the animal control center while a neighbor down the hall personally removed the snake. About 2 hours later, the snake was seen again. Haugaard saw the reptile coiled up against the window screen. Animal Control Officer, Janet Jacobs and D.C. police officer, Michael Harvey climbed onto the roof of the apartment building. Jacobs grabbed the snake by the head and carried it off to the van. Washington Post 9/10/88 *(This newsclip mentions the fact that it is unclear where the snake came from. Also, there is no mention on how the reptile escaped the first capture by the neighbor. Ed.)*

SUPPLEMENTAL:

This story is for the ones who do not believe the tales of giant snakes that can devour humans:

Joao Menezes and his three-year-old son, Daniel went fishing along the Jaru River in the western Amazon jungle of Brazil on 8/8/88. Joao headed towards his wooden shack

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walking ahead of his son when he heard him screaming. As he looked back, he saw Daniel's neck in the jaws of a 45 foot anaconda snake. Joao fled to his house to retrieve an old rifle, but when he returned to the river, the giant reptile had already crushed the boy's bones and had begun to swallow the body. Joao told AP reporter, Jorcene Martinez, that there was nothing he could do to save his son. Incidentally, the Jaru River is very hostile country for humans to live, as it is infested with piranha, crocodiles and snakes. Houston Chronicle 8/23/88

MORE ROAMING REPTILES:

A gopher tortoise, indigenous to Florida, was discovered at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton, Ohio. Employees at the center speculated that the creature was brought to Ohio from someone vacationing in Florida, but soon realized that it could not survive the environment and would not eat. The reptile was flown back to Florida. Asbury Park Press, Cincinnati Enquirer 8/11/88

Island Heights, New Jersey has been on a lizard search during the late summer of 1988. Gordon Nelson, who is a student at the University of Delaware, brought back a 3½ foot Tegu lizard during his summer break. He reported the lizard missing to police and a search began because the creature could bite if it is provoked. A local reptile expert, Robert Zappalorti, has been attempting to trap the lizard and has been searching the swampy area, but to no avail, except to catch two raccoons. Authorities believe an extreme cold spell would kill the animal, as it is indigenous to south and central America. Asbury Park Press 9/1/88, 9/2/88, 9/3/88, 9/4/88

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SWAMP SLOB ?

Forget about the CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON or the SWAMP THING. Lee County, South Carolina claims to have a giant, ugly reptilian that will scare your socks off. Just ask Chris Davis, who claims that such a creature attacked him while he was changing a flat tire. Davis is just one of many who allegedly witnessed "LIZARD MAN" during the summer of 1988.

The Lizard Man scenario has been written in many Fortean publications this past year, so we will not bore you with the repetition of the stories. Instead, let us examine the surrounding issues and facts and attempt to clarify what is really going on in the swamp. It is important to trace the history of the area along with the economy. Unfortunately, our only sources are newspaper clippings and the testimony of researcher, Mark Francis, who visited Lee County last summer.

Scape Ore Swamp was originally dubbed Escaped Whore Swamp, and has been the source of many legends. During the Revolutionary War, the British escaped into the swamp when the Americans moved in. Sometime, in the 1800's a band of angry wives chased an undesirable woman into the swamp. Senior citizens claim to have seen ghostly apparitions who would jump from the murky waters onto carriages, only to vaporize into thin air. Romaine Davis, 79, says that he has fished the swamp every

SOURCE:
Houston Chronicle
7/31/88



Chronicle artist K.B. Sanford's rendition of the beast, based on witnesses' reports.

Saturday evening since 1920. He claims to hear the "spooks and spirits". Lee County Sheriff, Liston Truesdale says there have been reports of strange incidents over the past few years. Local residents have been reporting that the swamp has been acting unusual, as air bubbles rise and pop with a loud burst. Currents seem to reverse themselves.

Deputy Chester Lightly has been hearing about Lizard Man since the first of June. Lightly patrols the incorporate village of Browntown near the swamp. He said that two unidentified men claimed that a creature chased them as they were drawing water from a spring.

The "Lizardmania" began to spread as Chris Davis, 17 came forth with a story of an encounter that occurred on a Wednesday morning at 2A.M. on June 22, or 29; Davis was returning home from his job at McDonalds when he got a flat tire on a road near the swamp. As he was putting the jack back into the trunk, he heard a loud thump across the road in a bean field. The following is Davis' account to the AP wire services and other newspapers:

"I looked back and saw something running across the field towards me. It was about 25 yards away and all red eyes glowing. I ran into the car and as I locked it, the thing grabbed the door handle. I could see him from the neck down-the three big fingers, long black nails and green rough skin. It was strong and angry. I looked in my mirror and saw a blur of green running. I could see his toes and then he jumped on to the roof of my car. I thought I heard a grunt and then I could see his fingers through the front windshield, where they curled around the roof. I sped up and swerved to shake the creature off."

Davis reached home and told his father what happened. They found the mirror on the door was twisted and found scratches on the roof. Davis' father said that Chris was terrified that night. Deputies checked out Chris' reputation and found him to be an honest clean-cut kid. Davis further described the creature as 7 feet tall, with red eyes, skin like a lizard and snake-like scales.

On July 14, Tom and Mary Waye's 1976 Ford LTD was reportedly damaged. Their hood ornament was ripped out of the socket along with gouges in the finish and some of the chrome was pulled off. The Waye's suspected that Lizard man was the culprit. Fur samples were forwarded to wildlife officials, who determined that the specimen belonged to a cat or fox. Tom Waye says that cats often sleep under the car and he further stated that a dog could have attacked the cats. Bill Moore, of the Lee County Sheriff's office also believes that some species of dogs could demolish a car.

Rodney Nolf and Shape Stokes were cruising with their girlfriends about 3:00 A.M. on July 24, when something dark darted in front of their car. They said the entity was about 7 feet tall and had eyes that glowed. They all saw the thing as it ran across the road toward the swamp where Interstate 20 meets Highway 15. Their girlfriends refused to leave the car, so they went to the Sheriff's office.

*The actual date of Davis' encounter was June 29th according to the Houston Chronicle. The problem arises because Davis waited three weeks before he reported to authorities.

Lee County Deputy Wayne Atkinson and state trooper Mike Hodge went to the site and began an investigation. They discovered 40 gallon garbage cans that had been scattered and tops of trees that were broke about 8 feet up. The main findings were of tracks that measured 14x 7 inches which seemed to extend about 400 feet. Plaster casts were made and seemed to indicate a 3-toed impression. Wildlife people said that the casts were a hoax.

On August 5th, a new scenario began in the Lizardman caper. Kenneth Orr, an airman from Shaw Air Force Base told the Sheriff's Dept. that he wounded a red-eyed, green, scaly monster in the neck. To further substantiate his story, he offered blood and scales as soft evidence. Orr said that he shot the creature with a .357 magnum.

Sheriff Truesdale immediately recognized that the alleged evidence was the remains of a fish. Therefore, Orr admitted that his story was a hoax; "To keep the legend of Lizard Man alive". Orr was charged with unlawfully carrying a firearm.

By the end of the summer, the Lizard Mania had begun to end. Thousands of people had come to Bishopville and Lee County, including the media. Researcher Erik Beckjord made several phone calls from California and Mark Francis traveled to South Carolina for an on-the-spot field investigation. The Sheriff's Department was so swamped with calls that the records clerk, Billy Moore was promoted to head up the "Lizard Patrol".

The Sheriff's Department and the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department are totally skeptical of any such creature, but they sincerely believe that Chris Davis encountered something in the swamp, perhaps a bear or an intoxicated individual who was covered with mud. Some of the locals believe that it is Bigfoot, as set forth by Beckjord.

It is very improbable that an objective investigation could ever be accomplished, because of the amount of belief in the creature by the local residents and monster hunters. What we appear to have is a toppling domino effect; something that we have become all too

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New whale type found off Peru

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Peru — An unclassified small whale has been discovered in Peru, and scientists at Washington's Smithsonian Institute call it a new species.

The whale, dubbed *Mesoplodon Peruvianus*, belongs to a genus of beaked whales. However, it differs in its relatively short length of 14 to 24 feet, the government gazette *El Peruano* said.

The presence of a new species was first suspected when a skull fragment of the whale was discovered on a beach near Lima in 1976.

Scientists are unsure why the species has not been spotted elsewhere. Tony Luscombe of the United States, vice president of a Peruvian conservation group, said the whales may need the cold Pacific currents that wash the shores of Peru and Chile.

familiar with in alleged monster "flaps" of the past.

We agree with Mark Francis that the testimony of George Holloman (incident at artesian well) and Chris Davis certainly hold merit. It is obvious that they encountered something strange and unknown to them. It should be pointed out that Davis somewhat altered his descriptions as time went by. He later stated that the creature probably had caked mud on it rather than scales. Also, he knew about Bigfoot and the movie, "CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON".

In our opinion, Davis' credibility declined, as he became a V.I.P. to Lee County by bolstering the economy. He began selling autographs, tours, etc. and took on two local agents who received a small commission. Other merchants got into the act by selling Lizard man T-shirts and other paraphernalia. A radio station out of Colombia even offered a 1 million dollar reward for the capture of Lizard man.

We believe that Erik Beckjord made a grave investigative error by planting the idea of Bigfoot into the media. This only hampered the case, as it created a belief system into the minds of the locals. Any conjecture of this sort should have been stalled until all possible explanations were eliminated.

An important aspect of this "flap" would seem to be the footprint finds. Unfortunately, there are many unanswered questions. We shall attempt to scrutinize the events leading up to this discovery with what information is at hand. Remember that patrolmen Atkinson and Hodge had responded to a call regarding the alleged sighting by Nolf, Stokes and their girlfriends. Certain parties would already know about this incident. Actually, the 40 gallon drums were of the cardboard variety, something that can easily be handled by humans. The saplings could be broken by a tree trimmer or a small mammal. Perhaps the limbs were not 8 feet high as estimated.

As to the prints, we really do not know anything about them. The only clues are the statements by the police and three plaster casts. Evidently, it rained two inches between the time the prints were found and casted the following afternoon by Deputies Jim Tallon and Phil Stokes. Police dogs did not pick up any scent. Typically, canines act in an erratic manner when introduced to a possible Bigfoot incident.

The print casts do not match any known species of animals, nor do they compare to any alleged Bigfoot prints. All casts appear completely uniformed, or too perfect. They do not correspond with the locomotion and physiology of the creature's description. We base this conclusion on the photographs of the casts and remarks made by Francis and John Evans. (South Carolina Marine and Resources Department.)

There are many pros and cons regarding Lizard man. Lack of space prohibits us from dwelling at length. Therefore, we are hoping that more facts come to life and correspondents will correct us if we are in error. As previously stated, there are still many questions to be answered.

Two items continue to rattle our minds and they may, or may not have a bearing on this issue:

1. Are Deputy Phil Stokes and witness Shane Stokes related?

2. Sheriff Truesdale was quoted in an AP released dated 7/27/88 as saying, " A prankster was at work to keep the Lizard man alive." According to the AP wire release of 8/12/88, Kenneth Orr made a similar statement after admitting a hoax-"He wanted to keep the legend of Lizard man alive."

It appears that many of the locals wanted to keep the legend alive. In our opinion, the sightings of something unknown to Holloman and Davis sparked off "Lizard Mania" and that created an atmosphere for a hoax of high magnitude to enlighten the economy of Bishopville and Lee County. As to what these two individuals witnessed remains a mystery. Perhaps it was either an alligator, (ha!) bear, a transient, drunk, or a hoax. It is equally probable that the entity was a giant reptilian. At any rate, we Forteaners are left with a dilemma while business booms in this small South Carolina community. After all, every swamp in southern United States boasts of some kind of monster roaming about. • *

Ohio Bears!?

Recent sightings of the Black Bear (*Ursus Americanus*) in the Buckeye State have prompted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to begin population surveys on this mammal.

" We've had wondering bears regularly since 1983. For the immediate future, unless we have a great increase in population and industry on the Pennsylvania line, we will probably see a constant increase of bears in Ohio", said Clyde Simmerer in a statement to the Associated Press released on 11/3/88. Simmerer is a wildlife manager in Northeastern Ohio.

Simmerer said that there have been sightings in Geauga County in May of last year. Bears were also reported in Trumbull, Jefferson and Columbiana Counties; the most recent one in Irondale. These mammals have also been seen in southeastern Ohio, but the river keeps most of them in West Virginia.

Black Bears are not normally aggressive, unless provoked, or if someone is attempting to feed or touch it.

We present this information as an educational tool to the many Bigfooters in the surrounding states. (including ourselves) It is possible that some reports of Bigfoot could be attributed to bears. In fact, there have been alleged monster reports from the above mentioned counties. Visual perception and weathering of tracks are just a few examples of misinterpretation. Remember, to kill one of these creatures is illegal in Ohio.

If a bear is reported to you during an investigation, it is your duty to contact the Department of Natural Resources or the nearest Game warden. The editor of this publication would also be interested in any reports of bears in the Ohio Valley from newsclipping.

*Many newsclippings contributed to the Lizard man story: AP 7/19, 22, 27 & 8/1, 12 Houston Chronicle 7/31/88 Atlanta Journal 7/31/88 The Columbia State 8/15/88 Washington Post 8/14/88 St. Louis Dispatch 8/10/88 and many more on file.

The Paradigm has Failed:

ANOTHER RESPONSE
FROM BECKJORD

In regard to the editorial debate in C.C. 12, I need to clarify a few points:

The years and man-hours of searching for a zoological Bigfoot have all failed. With all due respect, it is a logical fallacy to say that we cannot decide whether a creature is zoological until we get a body.

The main point in my first letter on this subject was that this approach has had its chance and failed. The time has come to recognize the idea of what looks, smells, walks, etc. like a particular creature still is not really that being unless it has a verifiable body. The same applies to Bigfoot.

All the excuses about burying their dead, etc. just does not wash. Animals of the highest intelligence, including man die and are found every day.

The editor's comments about field work still doesn't change things. We already have blood samples from Washington state. What happened in Vinton County, Ohio is irrelevant. In regards to the Big Bone, Kentucky case, normal men and/or hunters do not mistake trees for moving objects. I do not think for a split second that anyone has mistaken a tree for Bigfoot. We have hair samples from four states that match and are of a possible higher primate origin, yet they are unknown. If we wait for a reference master set from a dead body, why bother to collect samples? My point seems to have been missed; blood, hair, feces, etc. makes no difference—they are not a body.

The zoological paradigm has failed. Its time is over. We need to investigate alternatives and cross off "zoological" from the list and find out what Bigfoot and other strange creatures really are.

Erik Beckjord 2/19/88

Editor's note: I appreciate the comments set forth by Erik in the last two issues of this newsletter. Yes, we can all debate our conjecture in a rational form, without the hostile feuds that have taken place in the past. I have my opinions and he has his, both based on the hours of research we have endeavored.

I still have a great disagreement in his logic. What happened in Vinton County is relevant. Hunters do mistake moving and stationary objects. In Ohio alone, hunting accidents increased in 1988. Where did Mr. Beckjord obtain the facts that animals of high intelligence are found everyday? (especially in the forest and mountain regions.) Dead remains are not discovered that often. Erik is correct in saying that blood, hair, feces, etc. are not a body. So, if we follow his proposed methodology, were do we begin to obtain the hard documented evidence that is so desperately needed?.... R.S.



From The Buffalo News.

Electric Harmits

If you do not believe that animals have an impact on our way of life, consider the following stories:

A squirrel caused a power failure for two hours by contacting several lines at the same time. About 4,500 people were without electric in Mystic Island, Atlantis and Holly Lake, New Jersey.. The short circuit caused a fire on an utility pole and damaged equipment. Asbury Park Press 11/14/88

In Monroe, Michigan, a raccoon managed to climb into a switchboard of a small nuclear power plant and triggered a shutdown of the \$5.1 billion plant. St. Louis Dispatch 5/11/88

Back in 1977, a snake was responsible for an hour electrical shutdown. The Central Kansas Power Company said that the snake crawled through a fence of a high-voltage substation located at Hoxie. Kansas City Star 7/31/77

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Colossal Crustaceans

Seafood lovers should appreciate the catches of 1988., especially if lobster and shrimp are your favorites.

Thomas Erivk, of Florø, Norway made the headlines, as he trapped a 22 pound lobster estimated at 40 years old. Unfortunately, the lobster died before it reached its destination of Bergen. Cincinnati Enquirer 9/20/88

An unlikely order for lobster came to a Philadelphia seafood store in time for Easter. One crustacean, dubbed the name of "Shirley" weighed 25 pounds and the other was about 193/4 pounds, almost ended up for dinner before funds were raised to relocate them off the coast of Maine. A customer who had bought the animals for \$287 finally decided to exchange them for smaller ones.

Cincinnati Enquirer 4/30/88

A South Carolina research facility was responsible for the escape of giant shrimp into the coastline of the south-east U.S. These exotic creatures weigh about 1/4 pound each and are indigenous to the waters of India, Australia and south Asia. *Penaeus monodon* are now populating the waters from Georgetown, South Carolina to St. Augustine, Florida. Commercial shrimpers are concerned that they may carry diseases and may harm the native species. Cincinnati Enquirer 10/19/88

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Freshwater Giants

Here are two interesting pieces that will thrill the avid angler. One catch is a record, while the other was about the eight largest muskie.

A 65 pound muskie was caught in the Moon River basin of Georgian Bay, Ontario. Ken O'Brien was trolling for walleyes with 8 pound test line. The lure was running about 15 to 20 feet, which was a Countdown Rapala with four small split shot weights; a real "fluke" according to Spence Petros of Fishing Facts Magazine. Petros dispatched Muskie historian Larry Ramsell, who determined that the fish was 57 inches long with a girth of 30 1/4. Asbury Park Press 11/9/88

Gray Helms reeled in a record 60 lb., 8 ounce striped rockfish from an eastern Tennessee lake. The fish was so long that it actually hung over on the scale. The original reading was 58 pounds, but when Helm's weighed it at home it registered two pounds more. Asbury Park Press 2/21/88

This must have been a striped bass and not a rock bass, as the rock bass does not grow that large, while stripers can grow to an enormous size. -Ed.

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OUR GOOD FRIEND.....

Mark Opsasnick has come forth with his latest endeavor entitled "MARYLAND BIGFOOT UPDATE, '88". You can order it for \$3.50 from Arcturus Books, P.O. Box 831383, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083.

More Hairy Reports

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

On May 17, 1988, Sam Sherry, 67 was fishing along the Loyalhanna Creek, when at about 11:30 PM, he noticed a strong musty odor and strange sounds. These noises resembled monkey-like chattering. He also heard tree branches breaking.

Sherry shined his flashlight and was amazed to see something that looked like two orange eyes. Then, he noticed a large creature standing erect. He described the entity as about 600 pounds, with a flattened nose, two small ears, and a mouth with no teeth. There was no visible neck and the shoulders were broad, with long arms. While there was some hair on the head, he did not see any hair on the other body parts.

The witness observed the creature breathing very loud and heavy, as if it had an asthmatic condition. The body appeared to be covered with reddish-brown leather-like skin.

The witness watched as the creature began body movements, such as swinging its arms and flexing its muscles. Sherry watched it for about twenty minutes, then turned towards his car. At this point, the creature was right behind him and as he got into the car, the creature put its hand on the window. It then stuck its head into the window and spat on Sherry as he drove away.

SOURCE: Investigative report by Paul Johnson (Cryptozoological Study Group) of The Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research; PASU DATA Newsletter, Stan Gordon, Editor. (Issue 8, August 1988.)

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Prairie Island, Minnesota

This past summer has brought a recent rash of 18-inch footprints and alleged Bigfoot sightings to the Prairie Island Indian reservation, which have revived the belief of the Cee-ha-tonka has returned. (The big man.)

On July 21, Wayne Running Wolf's dogs began barking frantically sometime around 9:30 PM. As he looked outside, he spotted something large out of the corner of his eye. Unfortunately, he could not tell if it was a shadow, or a shape. However, his sighting was supported by two large footprints he discovered crossing his driveway into the woods.

SOURCE: Minnesota Republican Eagle 7/23/88 via Weirdology, Robert Easley and Rick Hilberg, Editors.

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Northern Siberia, U.S.S.R.

Maria Bulkova was reported to have sighted an eight-foot-tall "snowman" from the window of a log cabin. The Moscow University researcher said that the creature was covered with white hair and sounded-off a "horrible cry". There have been other sightings in this region over the years and have been reported to state television.

SOURCE: Columbus Dispatch 10/23/88 Cr. Jon Fry

China's Loc Ness?

Chinese scientists are still analyzing a carnivorous red fish that is 6 feet, 4 inches long and weighing 10 pounds that was caught on July 21, 1988. Similar fish have been reported as long as 13 feet. However, it is unknown if this species

is the culprit that is responsible for eating domestic animals, as reported by the Xinhua News Agency. For years, domestic animals have disappeared in a remote lake of Northwestern China.

Scientists are using hovercraft in the latest effort to solve this mystery. A survey team from the Nanjing Geography Department and the Heilongjiang Aquatic Institute are combing Lake Karnaci in the hope of finding something. There have been many legends about monsters in the lake, which sits about 3900 feet above sea level and is nearly 300 feet deep.
SOURCE: UPI newswire copy 8/9/88 Cr. Mark A. Hall

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CREDITS:

Many thanks to all the correspondents and researchers who contributed clips for this publication. If we missed anybody, please accept our apology. Send us a correction and we will print it in the next issue: Erik Beckjord, Janet & Colin Bord, Bob Easley, Jon Fry, Shawn Garrett, Richard Heiden, Eric Helwig, Rick Hilberg, Richard Indin, Karen Johnson, Bill Kingsley, Ray Nelke, Mark Opsasnick, Scott Parker, Beth Robbins, Mel Saunders and Charles Wilhelm.
EXTRA THANKS TO: Collectors of Unusual Data- International for distribution of the fine newspaper clippings. Also, a hearty thanks to Mark A. Hall for the AP newswire sheets on the Lizardman story.

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FINAL NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:

Creature Chronicles is always looking for fresh input. We would appreciate any clippings, investigative reports, or articles that may enhance this publication. Your letters are welcome as long as it pertains to the subject matter.

Here are some of the fine publications that we receive. It is suggested that you send a SASE when requesting information. Make sure that you mention Creature Chronicles. Publications are no easy task! The UFO publications mentioned have information on Cryptozoology and wildlife phenomena.
Fortean Times - see page 5
Strange Magazine - see page 5; Stigmata and Crux % Tom Adams, P.O. Box 1094, Paris, Texas 75460; Saucer Smear % James Moseley, P.O. Box 1709, Key West, Florida 33041; Champ Channels % Joseph Zarzynski, P.O. Box 2134, Wilton, New York 12866; Strange Investigations % Mark Opsasnick, 114 Rosewood, Maryland 20770; The Gate % Beth Robbins, P.O. Box 43518, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143; Bigfoot News % Don Keating, P.O. Box 205, Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832; UAPA and Wierdology % Bob Easley, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 447035; North American SETI Magazine % Howard Dudley R.R. 1, Box 460, Hollister Road, Plainfield, Vermont 05667; UFO % Vicki Cooper, 1800 S. Robertson Blvd., Box 355, Los Angeles, California 90035; New York Fortean Society % John A. Keel, P.O. Box 20024, New York, New York 10025. If we forgot anyone here, please let us know. There are many other private publications available.

Unfortunately, there are no back issue of Chronicles available. Every issue has been in a xerox type format. If you still desire copied back issues, we would require a fee of \$25.00 for the 13 issues duplicated.

Special thanks to the limited staff, ego boosters, friends, etc., who contribute to this publication, especially, Charles Wilhelm & Mark Opsasnick.