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## Lake Champlain Monster Draws Worldwide Attention

The Lake Champlain Monster ("Champ") has been in the news recently due to analyses of the Mansi photograph, a special Champ symposium held in Burlington, Vermont, a resolution passed by the Vermont House of Representatives, and new sighting reports.

Taken in July of 1977 at northern Lake Champlain, the Mansai photograph (see color reproductions in *Time*, July 13, 1981, *Life*, August 1982, and a black and white reproduction in *The New York Times*, June 30, 1981) was examined by ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, an authority on the Loch Ness Monster. Convinced that the photo was genuine and appeared to show the same kinds of animals as reported at Loch Ness, Dr. Mackal, at the University of Chicago, sent it for further analysis and image processing to ISC Secretary J. Richard Greenwell at the University of Arizona. Mr. Greenwell worked with Dr. B. Roy Frieden in the Optical Sciences Center.

Dr. Frieden initially determined that the photo was not a montage. Also, in his opinion, the wave patterns surrounding the object indicated that they were caused by a vertical disturbance (the object coming up from the sub-surface), rather than by a horizontal disturbance (the object being pulled along by ropes), which would tend to support the witness' report.

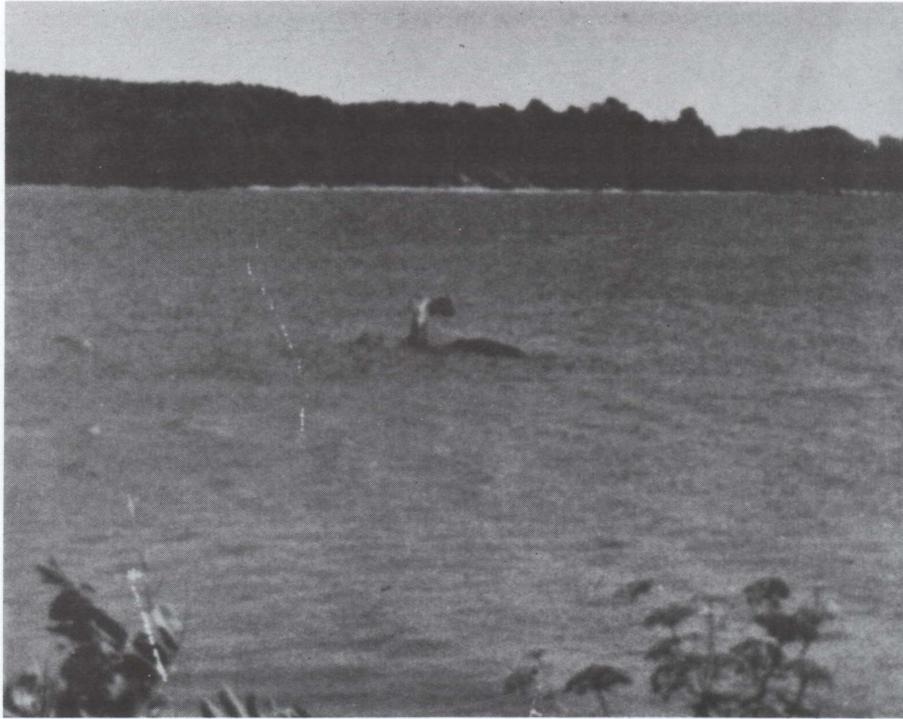
Because the Optical Sciences densitometer had been dismantled for student instruction, the facilities of the nearby Kitt Peak National Observatory were used. A black and white transparency was made from the original color print. The transparency was then scanned by a densitometer for about 20 minutes, and each pixle in

the image was assigned a number (there were almost one million pixles). The digital data were then stored on magnetic tape, and the tape was used to project the image electronically onto a large screen, where it could be controlled by simply turning dials. Called the Interactive Picture Processing System (IPPS), the technique allowed Dr. Frieden and Kitt Peak scientists to enhance the image, increasing and decreasing various contrasts at will. The photo was already so sharp, however, that little increased clarity could be obtained.

The image enhancements did demonstrate that the monster's "back" and "head" are connected (not clearly visible to the eye in the original print), and that the object, whatever it is, is indeed in the water at a certain distance. The enhancements produced no evidence of hoax, but, at the same time, they did not conclusively demonstrate that the object was indeed a living animal. Unfortunately, the enhancements could not resolve facial features because the head was heavily shadowed.

Dr. Frieden felt that other possibilities besides the "monster hypothesis" should be considered, and he pointed out that a brownish streak in the original print indicates that the object may have been located near a sandbar, thus permitting hoaxers to more easily wade out carrying a "model monster." Dr. Mackal, on the other hand, considers the sandbar hypothesis good news. He points out that the animals in Loch Ness are often reported wading in shallow water, perhaps waiting for fish runs.

One important question concerning the Mansi photo is the distance between the ob-



© Copyright 1981 Sandra Mansi

Photograph of Champ taken by Sandra Mansi in July of 1977, in the northern part of Lake Champlain. The original print in color.

ject and the camera. The witnesses (Mr. and Mrs. Mansi) state that the object was approximately 150-170 feet away. Dr. Frieden and Mr. Greenwell worked on a mathematical equation which they hoped would provide a fairly accurate distance. However, there was an error in the equation, which assumed that the water's edge (the shoreline) commenced where it appeared to begin in the photo, which is not the case. If the object was over 100 feet from the camera, which it appears to be, it would have to be a considerably large object, requiring a sophisticated, elaborate hoax. Furthermore, Mrs. Mansi insists that the object was alive, and that it moved like an animal. If the hoax hypothesis is advanced, therefore, it necessarily would involve the Mansis as the hoaxers.

In April of 1981, Dr. Mackal was in Tucson to deliver a seminar in the Department of General Biology at the University of Arizona (with the tantalizing title of "Loch Ness and the Biology of Lake Monsters"). During his visit, he gave a press conference, sponsored by the University Information Service, at which Dr. Frieden's conclusions were presented, and further analytical work was recommended. The photo

is currently being examined by two other scientists: Dr. Paul H. LeBlond, of the University of British Columbia, and Mr. Forrest G. Wood, of the U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego. Dr. LeBlond is a specialist in wave dynamics, and Mr. Wood specializes in marine mammals and octopodes. Both are on the ISC Board of Directors.

Whether authentic or not, the Mansi photo correlates well with the general morphology reported for Champ, as well as for other "lake monsters," particularly Nessie. There are over 150 reports of Champ on record, the first coming from no other than Samuel de Champlain, the lake's European discoverer in 1609. For several years, Joseph Zarzynski has run an active program of diving and surveillance called the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, and together with Jim Kennard, head of Rochester Engineering Laboratories, has been monitoring the lake with a sophisticated side-scan sonar. The two have found several shipwrecks using the sonar (including the passenger steamer Champlain, which is recorded to have sunk in 1875), but no unidentified targets have yet been tracked.

One problem confronting them is the immensity of the

lake. About 110 miles long, compared to Loch Ness' 24 miles, the lake has over 580 miles of shoreline, including many bays, inlets, and islands on both its New York and Vermont sides. The lake, which also juts up into Canada, is the largest North American lake which is not one of the Great Lakes.

Due to the increasing public and scientific attention being given to Champ, a special symposium was held in Burlington, Vermont, on August 29, 1981. Sponsored by the Lake Champlain Committee, an environmental group concerned with the lake's use and protection, the symposium brought together Mackal, Greenwell, Zarzynski, ISC Board member George R. Zug, Chairman of Vertebrate Zoology at the Smithsonian Institution, Philip Reines, of the Department of Mass Communication at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, Mrs. Mansi, and many others interested in the topic.

The Symposium, held in the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms (a few hundred feet from the lake itself), was attended by about 150 people. It was moderated by William H. Eddy, Jr. an adjunct faculty member in the University of Vermont's Environmental Program. Professor Eddy provided a historical review of crypto-

zoology, and called for an objective assessment of the Champlain problem. This was followed by Mr. Zarzynski, who reviewed his work at the lake during the previous seven years, and who called for legislation to protect the "monster," whatever kind of animal it may be. Sandra Mansi then gave a personal narrative of her sighting and photography, and several other Champ witnesses "testified" as to their sightings.

In the afternoon session, Professor Reines presented the results of his investigatory efforts in interviewing eyewitnesses, and his taped interviews with "old-timers" who remember seeing the animals as children at the turn of the century attracted much interest. Mr. Greenwell described the image processing work on the Mansi photo conducted at the University of Arizona. He also reviewed the late Pleistocene geology of the lake, and discussed the "plesiosaur hypothesis." This was followed by Dr. Mackal, who reviewed the evidence for "monsters" in several North American lakes, including Champlain, and proposed that the animals being observed may represent a relative of the zeuglodon, a primitive serpentine-like whale which lived about 20 million years ago. Dr. Zug discussed known cases of marine animals appearing in previously unsuspected regions, and concurred that the Champ reports indicate the presence of large animals still unknown to science.

Following the Burlington symposium, Mr. Zarzynski continued to work with Vermont House Representative Millie Small to draw-up protective legislation for Champ. (The previous year, in November of 1980, the town of Port Henry, on the New York side, had passed an ordinance declaring the waters in Bulwagga Bay as off-limits to persons attempting to "harm or harrass" a lake monster.) A hearing was held in February, 1981, before the Vermont House Natural Resources Committee, at which several Champ witnesses testified. Finally, in March, 1982, the Committee

passed Representative Small's Resolution by a 11-0 vote. Passage by the full House occurred in April, 1982, by a vote of 77-28. The Resolution (H.R. 19) is not law-binding, but it expresses the sentiment of the House. "It's going to mean something to the scientific community," said Representative Small. "It's kind of an acknowledgement that people believe there is something out there." Passage by the Vermont Senate could occur in early 1983.

The full text of the House Resolution reads:

H.R. 19

Resolution relating to "Champ":

Whereas, there are documented reports, historical accounts, and photographic evidence to substantiate the possible existence in Lake Champlain of an unidentified aquatic animal or animals described as long-necked, serpentine, or snake-like, and

Whereas, the animals of this kind have been part of the Champlain Valley folklore for over three and a half centuries, to the enjoyment of all citizens of the state, and

Whereas, these ani-

mals have been observed by many citizens of the state and others, and

Whereas, the discovery of a species of heretofore unknown animal life would be a contribution to the fund of human knowledge, and

Whereas, recent publicity has generated considerable scientific curiosity to investigate these animals, and

Whereas, the absence of a state law to protect these unidentified unknown animals may encourage the use of force or violence, threatening its welfare and the safety of Vermonters and people enjoying the beauty at Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, no act of violence by these animals has ever been recorded against any individual or group of people, and

Whereas, the most responsible course for the state to follow would be to encourage continued collection and evaluation of scientific evidence of unexplained phenomena in Lake Champlain, now therefore be it



Electronic Enhancement of the Mansi photo. Note connection between the "neck" and the "back," not visible in the original photo.

**Resolved by the House of Representatives:**

That the possible existence of the animal commonly known as "Champ" is recognized by this state, and be it further

**Resolved:** That "Champ" should be protected from any willful act resulting in death, injury or harrassment, and be it further

**Resolved:** That the State of Vermont encourage serious scientific inquiry into the existence of any unusual animals in Lake Champlain, especially the possible existence of an animal such as the one commonly known of an animal such as the one commonly known as "Champ", and be it further

**Resolved:** That citizens of Vermont and visitors to Lake Champlain are encouraged to report sightings of such animals or associated phenomena and photographic evidence whenever possible.

Which was read and adopted (on a division:



George Zug (left) and Roy Mackal at the Lake Champlain Monster Symposium (Lake in the background).

## That Is Incredible

In December of 1981, Mr. Kevin Duffy appeared on the popular U.S. television program **That's Incredible**, and showed footage from a 16mm film he had taken several months earlier while on a visit to the jungle town of Impfondo, in the northern Likouala Region of the People's Republic of the Congo. The footage supposedly depicted the head and neck of a "dinosaur" rising out of the Ubangi River, and submerging again. The "dinosaur" filmed by Mr. Duffy was said to be the celebrated Mokele-Mbembe.

The film footage was seen on videotape by Mackal expedition team members upon their return to the U.S. The Mackal expedition operated out of Impfondo during its search for evidence of Mokele-Mbembe several months after the visit by Mr. Duffy (see **The ISC Newsletter**, Vol. 1, no. 1, Spring 1982).

Numerous ISC members, and others, have inquired about the Duffy film. The following can be stated by the Editor, who was a Mackal expedition member. While the Mackal

team was in Impfondo, American informants at the Evangelical Mission, headed by Pastor Eugene Thomas, including a witness to the actual filming, described the nature of the "dinosaur," which they stated was nothing more than a wooden head carved from a tree trunk.

The reason for manufacturing and filming the model was supposedly to show what Mokele-Mbembe would look like, if in fact it existed. The informants stated categorically that Mr. Duffy had indicated no other purpose for the filming, and that his subsequent claims are inconsistent with the known facts.

In recent months, Dr. Mackal was approached by the producers of **That's Incredible**, and asked to appear on the show concerning the expedition he had headed. Dr. Mackal declined their offer, pointing out the questionable reliability of the Duffy footage. In response, **That's Incredible** stated that their program was not a scientific forum, but an entertainment show. Believe it, or not.

Yes, 77. No, 28.)

Several Champ sightings have been reported in 1982, although the 19 reports for 1981 is the highest on record. Three May sightings have been reported to Mr. Zarzynski, two of which included neck/head descriptions (he is also investigating a June sighting). In total, Mr. Zarzynski has 162 reports on file, 43% of which involve neck/head descriptions.

Although several photographs of Champ have been produced by eyewitnesses, the Mansi photo is clearly the most detailed and important. A "near-miss" may have occurred on July 19, 1982, when Claude Van Kleeck reportedly photographed Champ from a beach at Port Henry. Van Kleeck, who was camping with friends on the beach, heard a

shout, and observed a "blackish gray" object showing four or five humps and a small head turning from side to side. No appendages were visible, but the object was described "as thick as an oil drum" and possibly 50 feet long. When the object was about 300 feet from shore, Van Kleeck focused an expensive (\$800) 35mm camera with telephoto lens on the object, and took one photograph. The photo developed blank, however, because the film did not advance in the camera.

Joyce Ruggles, one of Van Kleeck's companions, did manage to shoot a picture with an instamatic camera. At press time, she stated that she still had several more photos to use-up before taking the film in to be developed.

## Canadian "Monster Lakes" in the News

Canada has many thousands of lakes, some small, some large, some well known, and some hardly ever visited.

Among these bodies of water spread out across the vast expanse of Canada, are a surprising number of "monster lakes" -- enough, in fact, to put Loch Ness and its 8 companion Scottish monster lakes to shame.

Besides the most famous Canadian monster lake, Lake Okanagan, reputed home of Ogopogo, there are dozens of others. A brief review of some of the lake monster literature by the Editor has produced a list of 29 such lakes in six Canadian provinces. They are broken-down as follows:

### New Brunswick

- Lake Utopia

### Quebec

- Aylmer Lake
- Brompton Lake
- Lake Champlain -- mainly in U.S.A. (home of Champ)
- Lake Phenegamook -- also known as Moking Lake (home of Ponik)
- Lake Remi
- Lake St. Francis

### Ontario

- Luchesne Lake
- Lake Meminisha
- Muskrat Lake
- Lake Simcoe (home of Igopogo)

### Manitoba

- Cedar Lake
- Lake Dauphin
- Lake Manitoba (home of Manipogo)
- Lake St. Martin
- Lake Winnipegosis (home of Winnipogo)

### Saskatchewan

- Turtle Lake

### British Columbia

- Bennet Lake
- Chadburn Lake
- Cowichan Lake
- Harrison Lake
- Kamloops Lake
- Lake Kathlyn
- Kootenay Lake
- Lake Okanagan (home of Ggopogo)
- Osoyoos Lake
- Shuswap Lake
- Lake Tagai
- Williams Lake

No references were found on monster lakes in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Alberta, Yukon, or the Northwest Territories.

Canadian monster lakes have been in the news lately, due to a number of sighting reports, and investigations

## Message From the Editor

Membership response to the **Newsletter** has been very positive, and new memberships continue to come in regularly. As of July, membership stood at 250. In order for the Society to be viable, however, membership has to reach 500. At the present time, there are sufficient funds to publish the Fall and Winter 1982 **Newsletters**, but not the journal. Hopefully, income from new memberships will resolve this financial problem.

The cost of membership in ISC is a little higher than that for joining other small societies, but the information being disseminated is highly specialized. When a member pays \$25 to join, he or she is demonstrating a serious interest in cryptozoology as a science rather than as a passing fad. Thus, it is the view of the Board of Directors that all or most of the Charter Members will want to continue their memberships in years to come.

In this regard, members are reminded that all memberships are renewable in early 1983. All members who joined

in the 1982 calendar year, even towards the end of the year, will receive the publications which appeared in 1982. Provided additional finances permit, the Society will publish four newsletters and one journal in calendar year 1982, although the fourth (Winter) **Newsletter** and the journal will not be mailed until January, 1983, in order to avoid the Christmas mail rush.

Subscriptions, which were \$50.00, have been reduced to \$35.00, at least while only one journal a year is published. Subscribers have been issued \$15 credit vouchers. (Subscribers are individuals who wish to get all ISC publications **without** membership -- members get the same publications included with the cost of membership.) Institutional and library subscriptions are also \$35.00. Members affiliated with universities and research institutions are urged to request their institutional libraries to open subscriptions with ISC.

A note to ISC members outside of the United States:

While postal rates to Canada and Mexico are the same as in the U.S., the first **Newsletter** was mailed to all other countries by surface mail. This was due to the high cost of international air mail. Two factors have overcome this problem. Additional funds are available, and lightweight mailing envelopes have been acquired to reduce the weight (and thus the cost) of mailing. Thus, this **Newsletter** is being sent by air mail to non-U.S. members, as they are entitled to receive the **Newsletter** as early as U.S. members do. It is hoped that finances will permit this policy to continue in the future.

International members are also urged to send the **Newsletter** Editor news items from their respective countries or regions. The Editor is very dependent on what is sent to him for publication in the **Newsletter**, and this is particularly so with international events related to cryptozoology.

J. Richard Greenwell  
Editor

by different individuals.

Turtle Lake, in west-central Saskatchewan, itself the site of hundreds of lakes, is supposedly the home of what local Indians refer to as the "Eig Fish." Reports are made every summer, and a significant sighting occurred on October 23, 1981.

Descriptions vary. Some observers say it is ten feet long, others 30 feet. Sometimes it is described as smooth-skinned, others report a "scaly" appearance. Sometimes a fin is reported, other times not. Its head has been described like that of a horse, a dog, and a pig. Many of the Turtle Lake residents think their monster is merely a large sturgeon, but this does not seem to prevent the sale of monsterburgers and monster hats, commercial exploitations similar to that found at other monster lakes around the world.

Local investigator Ben blatz, a retired schoolteacher, thinks that "something out of the ordinary" lives in the lake, and he is attempting to gather eyewitness reports, as has been done at other lakes, in order to better assess what the animals could be.

In Quebec, meanwhile, new attention is being paid to the monster lakes of that province. The main impetus comes from Claude Gagnon, a philosopher at College Edouard-Montpetit and the University of Quebec at Montreal, and Michael Meurger, a folklorist at the Institute Metapsychique International de Paris, who have co-authored a book on the topic. Their 320-page *Monstres des Lacs du Quebec* describes their one year of effort in tracking-down eyewitnesses and reviewing old newspaper reports, and will probably increase the above list of Quebec monster lakes.

"We are not claiming that monsters exist," Gagnon stated in an interview, "but it's not impossible. We don't know what's under a lake. People think that science knows everything, but that's just not true." In another interview, Professor Gagnon stated: "After our

investigation, you have to use more imagination not to believe than to believe. ...We weren't interested in finding lake monsters. We were interested in the sighting of lake monsters by people. But when you compile all the evidence, you realize there must be something there because the stories are all too similar."

"There are many hypothetical opinions," Meurger added. "We cannot overlook the psychological opinion, that it could be imagination. We look at the pictures, and we don't know if it's a monster. But we know it's something." The authors point out that the serpents and dragons of Indo-European mythology resemble the modern lake monster reports of Quebec. "People said they saw dragons in the Middle Ages," said Meurger, "but did they really see them? It's impossible to tell whether it's a culturally based illusion, or reality."

An English version of their book, entitled *Monsters in Quebec Lakes: Myths and Troublesome Realities*, will be available this summer. In the meantime, Luc Paulin announced plans to lead a diving group into Lake St. Francis this summer, in an attempt to determine its depth and temperature -- and to look for the Lake St. Francis Monster, which he described as "a little submarine with a horse's head."

At press time, reports of a new Canadian "monster" sighting in Lake Utopia have come in. Sherman Hatt and his family were fishing on the New Brunswick lake in July (exact date unknown), when they saw the animal, which Hatt said was "like a submarine coming out of the water with spray on both sides. It was about 10 feet long, and put me in mind of the back of a whale -- it was black and rounded on the back." Other witnesses reportedly came forward with their sightings after Hatt's disclosure. Canadian fishery officials say their surveys of Lake Utopia have produced only salmon and bass.

## Legal Status of The Society

Since its founding in January, 1982, ISC has been moving towards establishing itself as a legal, corporate entity. Board member George Zug, who chaired the founding meeting at the Smithsonian Institution, has drawn up the Articles of Incorporation of the Society, which he has submitted to the Commissioner of Corporations of the District of Columbia.

Board member Joseph Gennaro has been introducing those changes into the Society's Constitution and Bylaws which have been proposed by Board members since the first versions were drafted at the founding meeting. The final versions of the documents should be completed before the end of 1982. Application is also being made to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to obtain tax-exempt status as a scientific and educational organization. This will mean that U.S. members of ISC will be able to deduct donations to the Society from their federal income taxes.

ISC member Alan Neigher, a Westport, Connecticut lawyer, has volunteered his legal services to the Society, and following discussion among the Board of Directors, has been appointed as Legal Counsel to the Society. Mr. Neigher, who has expertise in media and international law, is formalizing the application to the Internal Revenue Service, and will review and approve all the other corporate and legal documents of the Society.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at New York University, hosted by Dr. Gennaro, in the Spring of 1983.



## Sasquatch in Washington State: New Reports Involve Footprints

Two interesting Sasquatch (Bigfoot) "events" have occurred in Washington State in recent months. The first "event" involves four separate series of footprints, found over a two-month period, which have been investigated by the Gray's Harbor Sheriff's Department. The second "event" involves an actual Sasquatch sighting report by a U.S. Forest Service employee, and two series of footprints, in the Walla Walla area.

In the first "event," preliminary information supplied to the Society by the Gray's Harbor Sheriff's Department indicates that footprints were found at four locations identified with the following names: Abbott Hill Site; Worman's Bar Site; Elma Gate Site; and Porter Creek Site. Footprint casts were obtained from all the sites except Worman's Bar, but photos of those prints (as well as of the prints from the other sites) were taken. Although the ISC does not yet have a copy of the Sheriff's Department Report, the Department has confidentially provided the names of the persons who found the tracks at Abbott Hill and Porter Creek. The Elma Gate report was made anonymously to the Sheriff's Department, as was the Worman's Bar report, although the name of the person reporting the latter set of tracks is now known.

Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Heryford also submitted two hair samples associated with one of the Abbott Hill footprints to ISC. These have been analysed. One hair is human; the other has not been identified, but it is not primate hair.

ISC Board member Grover Krantz, who has had extensive experience in the biomechanical analysis of Sasquatch footprints, was visiting China and Europe in June and July, and was unaware of these incidents. At press

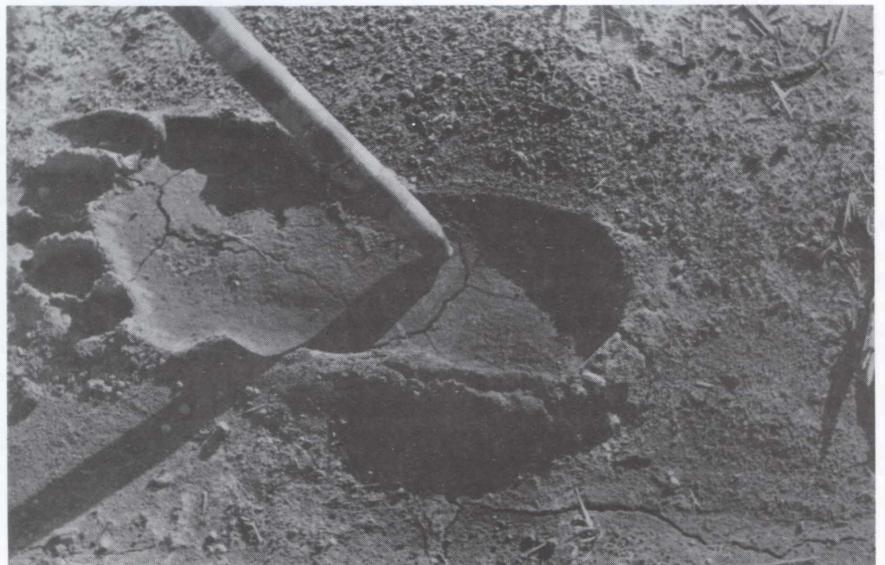
time, he had examined photographs of one of the Abbott Hill footprints (published herewith), and was about to examine various casts at the Sheriff's Department. The next Newsletter will report on his findings. Dr. Krantz is a professor of physical anthropology at Washington State University.

The Walla Walla "event" began at 11:30 A.M. on June 10, 1982, in the Blue Mountains of Southeastern Washington State and northeastern Oregon. Paul Freeman, a U.S. Forest Service patrolman employed at the Walla Walla Ranger District Office of the Umatilla National Forest, claims he encountered a hairy biped animal, about eight feet tall, a little south of the Mill Creek Watershed. Freeman reported that, after leaving his truck and following some elk on foot (to see if there were any calves), he found himself on an old logging road, called Tiger Canyon Road; upon turning a bend, he reportedly saw an "enormous creature" descending a bank out of the thick vegetation. Both Freeman and

the Sasquatch reportedly looked at each other from a distance of 150-200 feet for several seconds before taking off in different directions. Freeman turned around, however, and watched the unidentified animal disappear. He described it as tall (perhaps two feet taller than his own 6 foot 5 inch, 265 pound body), with reddish-brown hair, and long arms that hung to its knees. Immediately before the sighting, Freeman said he had detected a "foul stench" in the air.

Freeman was later quoted as stating: "I've been working in the wild all my life, and I know a bear or a man in a gorilla suit when I see one -- and that's not what I saw. I still can't sleep at night thinking about it...I've been working in the wilderness for years, and had never seen anything like it."

Freeman further described the animal as follows: "I could see the muscles in the legs move when he walked. I could see the muscles in the arms and shoulders. It just plain scared me, and I've never been scared in the



One of the Abbott Hill Sasquatch footprints investigated by the Gray's Harbor Sheriff's Department.



Different view of the same footprint. ISC is aware of who found this series of tracks.

woods before. This thing was real. It was big enough to tear the head right off your shoulders if it wanted to." Freeman denied it could have been a bear: "No, I see bears all the time in the watershed. I just stand still, and they walk off...I never saw anything like this in that area. I never believed in them for that matter...figured there wasn't any such thing. I was a complete atheist on the subject."

When shown a still photo from the 1967 Patterson Sasquatch movie, Freeman noted similarities, primarily the "peaked crown" (sagittal crest) on its head. Freeman also reported seeing light-colored palms, remembered hearing the heavy sound of its feet as it walked, and stated that the hair on its neck and head stood-up three times -- "like a dog's back" -- making Freeman think that "it was going to come at me."

After the reported encounter, Freeman informed his supervisors in Walla Walla, and a group returned to the area two hours later, finding 21 footprints measuring 14 inches long by 7 inches wide. One cast and several photographs were taken of the footprints, which could be followed until they reached rocky terrain. (It should be pointed out that, technically, the sighting and footprints locale is just over

the border, in Oregon, but the area is managed by the Walla Walla Ranger District Office, which is in Washington.)

One member of the returning party was Fire Management Officer Wayne Long, who has lived in Washington and Oregon forests for 35 years. "It's the first time I've ever seen a foot like this...I don't think this thing is manmade," Long was quoted as saying. "It was made by some creature. If it had been a single track, or two tracks, I might dispute it. But 21 tracks..?" Of significance was the fact that the footprints, although on fairly hard ground -- on an old, unpaved logging road -- had penetrated over an inch into the soil.

On June 18, the Walla Walla Ranger District Office released a prepared statement revealing that Freeman and Bill Epoch, another patrolman, had discovered about 40 new tracks in the Mill Creek Watershed (on the Washington side of the border) on June 16. The following day, the statement said, Joel Hardin, a U.S. Border Patrol tracking expert visited the new site with Freeman and others. Hardin's conclusion was that the tracks were hoaxed, based on several observations: the tracks were the same distance apart on both level ground and sloping ground; they

didn't sink much into the moist ground; he thought debris had been brushed aside before the tracks were made. Freeman disagreed with Hardin's conclusions on the new tracks, and stated that he was "just as much a professional tracker as he /Hardin/ is. He's good at tracking people, but I've been tracking animals for 30 years."

While the location of the Freeman sighting and associated tracks, near Tiger Creek (which connects with Mill Creek), are accessible to the public, the new prints were found in the Mill Creek Watershed itself, which is a restricted area and has no roads. Limited public access is only permitted in the autumn, when special elk hunting permits can be obtained.

In telephone conversations with the Editor, both District Office Resources Manager Randy Dohrmann and Fire Management Officer Long expressed confidence in Mr. Freeman's integrity, and indicated that he had exhibited what appeared to be genuine fear and shock over his sighting. They also verified that Mr. Freeman had not been a believer in Sasquatch prior to this sighting. Mr. Long felt that the footprints associated with the sighting were genuine, but expressed some skepticism over the second set found later in the Watershed. He stated that somebody else may have entered the Watershed to hoax the footprints, but that this in no way reflected on Mr. Freeman.

As for Mr. Freeman's sighting, both officials believed he was convinced of what he saw. Officer Long said the only explanation -- other than a real Sasquatch -- would be a hoax perpetrated on Mr. Freeman, but he questioned why a hoaxer would risk his life dressing-up as a Sasquatch and appearing before a Forest Service employee, and how he would have been able to leave a series of tracks over an inch deep in hard ground. Mr. Freeman joined the Forest Service in

May, and resigned in July following the publicity surrounding his sighting.

Of further interest is the report from Art Snow, a Milton-Freewater, Oregon, businessman who headed a five-person, volunteer search-and-rescue team to Tiger Creek on June 11, the day after the Freeman sighting. The team's mission was to search for the body of a boy missing since the previous autumn (the body may have frozen during the winter, and thawed in the spring, resulting in the stench smelt by Mr. Freeman). No body or stench were found, but the tracks associated with the Freeman sighting were located. Mr. Snow announced that he and his team had been able to follow the tracks beyond the original 21 tracks found by the Forest Service group, and that they had done so for three quarters of a mile. They made a cast of one of the "good" footprints.

Mr. Snow had been quoted by the press as stating: "It would not be possible to fake the tracks without a helicopter... We assumed Freeman was telling the truth, and we could find no evidence whatsoever to contradict the assumption. I'm not saying there is or is not a Bigfoot, but all evidence verifies his story."

In a telephone conversation with the Editor, Mr. Snow essentially confirmed the above statements. He further stated that his team's involvement was at the request of the Umatilla County (Oregon) Sheriff's Department, and that the Department was subsequently displeased with the team's Sasquatch involvement as outlined in its report to the Sheriff.

It is not clear why the Forest Service personnel did not observe the continuing tracks for three quarters of a mile, as Mr. Snow claims to have done. Mr. Snow states that, when he brought this information to the attention of the Forest Service Ranger District Office (in Walla Walla), they did not express interest. Mr. Dohrmann and Mr. Long, however, informed the Editor that they had no

## Chesapeake Bay Monster Filmed on Videotape

Following on the heels of the worldwide interest surrounding the Lake Champlain Monster (Champ), the Chesapeake Bay Monster (Chessie) has captured the public imagination -- and the Smithsonian's interest -- by letting itself be filmed for several minutes on videotape.

Chessie is not new to cryptozoologists, nor to the folklore of the Chesapeake Bay/Potomac River region. Sighting reports go back decades, and are similar to reports of animals in several other marine regions of the world.

Chessie witnesses generally describe a long animal, as much as 35 feet in length, and a round, smooth body. Several multiple-witness sightings were reported in the Potomac in 1978. Bob White, of the Virginia Beach Coast Guard Auxiliary, once saw "it," and thought he saw "bulging eyes" and skin like a dolphin. In June of 1980, G.F. Green III and his family described Chessie as 25 feet long, 6 inches in diameter, and swimming smoothly and rapidly. "I wouldn't call it a sea monster...just a strange animal, a creature...or some kind of serpent," he said. "There were three or four humps," he added, "and every now and then you'd see the head pop up. But when we'd get close to it, it would suddenly sink down and disappear." The Greens were water-skiing in the Bay at the time, and

Green said his wife probably "won't go skiing any more this year." While many remain skeptical, the new sighting is hard to dismiss, due to the fact that most of it was videotaped and can be re-played repeatedly for scientific analysis.

The incident occurred just after 7 p.m. on May 21, 1982. Robert and Karen Frew and several guests observed the animal from the Frew's home located at Love Point, overlooking the Bay. Love Point is on the north tip of Kent Island, which is across the Chesapeake Bay from Annapolis, about 140 miles north of the mouth of the Bay.

The animal was first observed in calm, shallow water, no deeper than five feet, with clear visibility. Frew watched it through binoculars and then got his video-camera and filmed it through his bedroom window from a distance of about 200 feet for about three minutes. It repeatedly broke surface. Frew, his wife, and two friends called to a group of swimmers (their voices are recorded on the videotape), but the animal dived, swam beneath them, and surfaced on the other side. "If they'd seen it at eye level, there would have been mass panic," said Frew.

Frew estimates that the animal was about 30 to 35 feet in length, and a little under one foot in diameter. "The first time up, we saw its head and about four feet / of back /," said Frew. "The next time about 12 feet, the next time about 20." A computer salesman who once studied wildlife management at the University of Maine, Frew said the visible part of the animal appeared to have humps, but that much of the animal stayed below water. Although Frew's first impression was that of a snake, the shape of its head now makes him doubt that. He and his family had previously observ-

knowledge of Mr. Snow's claimed additional tracks, and Mr. Long had no recollection of his telephone call.

At press time, Dr. Krantz was about to examine two Tiger Creek casts (both associated with the Freeman sighting) taken by the Forest Service and by the Snow team, and the Forest Service casts of the Mill Creek Watershed tracks. Dr. Krantz's conclusions will be outlined in the next issue of the Newsletter.

ed sea turtles, sharks, and otters in the Bay, but nothing like that which they filmed. After the filming, the Frews quickly drove around Love Point, hoping to see the animal swimming towards the Chester River, but no further sightings were made.

What is Chessie? A better understanding may be possible in Late August, when a group of scientists gather at the Smithsonian Institution to study the film. The panel will be convened by George Zug, the Institution's Chairman of Vertebrate Zoology, who serves on the ISC Board of Directors. Dr. Zug has informed the Editor that panel will include a marine mammalogist and an ichthyologist. Dr. Zug is a herpetologist.

In the meantime, opinions concerning Chessie's affinities have been coming in. Emory Kristof, a National Geographic underwater photographer (who has searched for Nessie in Scotland) implies that no real animal is involved. Mr. Kristof stated: "It looks like four kids swimming inside a plastic bag."

ISC Vice President Roy Mackal informed the Editor that, in his opinion, Chessie was the same kind of animal being reported in various "monster lakes" around the world: a relative of a long-extinct, primitive, serpentine-like whale known as the zeuglodon. Dr. Mackal believes that the animals are able to enter such temperate lakes from the marine environment at will, and are given different names according to where they are observed. Dr. Mackal publicly stated: "I am convinced on the basis of evidence that we are dealing with real animals that are related to primitive whales. These creatures have been sighted along the Atlantic Coast and off British Columbia for several hundred years. There were thousands of sightings made in Gloucester harbor in the 1800s. Typically, these creatures are found in estuarine environments, flex up and down, not side to side, and are

fish-feeders that follow fish runs."

However, Forrest G. Wood, a U.S. Navy marine biologist and ISC Board member, doubts Chessie's whale ancestry. In a letter to the Editor, after viewing the Frew videotape in San Diego, Mr. Wood stated: "I'll say with considerable certainty that it wasn't a cetacean."

ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans has spent many years studying the "sea serpent" problem, and he presented his findings in a 645-page volume **In the Wake of the Sea Serpents** (Hill and Wang, 1968), originally published in French as **Le Grand Serpente-Mer** (Plon, 1965). Dr. Heuvelmans attempted to sort out the confusion created by all the many description on record, and he came up with a list of nine unknown aquatic animals to explain "sea serpent" reports. One of these, the "long-necked," would be a large pinniped and would explain the freshwater "lake monsters." Two other candidates, the "super-otter" and the "many-humped," might be good candidates for Chessie. Another, the "super-eel," could also explain Chessie except that eels do not have vertical flexure; they can only undulate sideways.

While many people think that Chessie may represent a population of enormous eels or snakes, Dr. Zug states that the largest known eels and water snakes in the Chesapeake Bay area measure a maximum of four feet. Another possibility has been proposed by John Meriner, of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science: a large snake not native to the area, such as an anaconda, which can grow to a length of 30 feet or more. Dr. Meriner, head of the VIMS Department of Ichthyology, proposes that such snakes could have been transplanted into Chesapeake Bay decades ago by freighters coming from South America. How such tropical swamp-forest snakes could survive in a cold, marine environment such as the North Atlantic would be a mystery in itself.

Whatever species, family, order, or class Chessie re-

## Goodyear Blimp Joins Search for Nessie

For the first time since the Loch Ness Monster received worldwide attention, about 50 years ago, sustained airborne surveillance over Loch Ness was conducted in June, 1982. The surveillance was made from one of the "blimps" belonging to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, based in Akron, Ohio. The results were not successful in that no unknown animals were observed, but the project opened a new dimension in "lake monster hunting."

The Rome-based blimp Europa, which cruises at 35 miles per hour and has a crew of 25, including five pilots, carried infrared camera equipment. Tim Dinsdale, who has spent more time than anybody else searching for Nessie during the past 22 years (and is the author of several books on the topic), participated in Europa's one-week visit to Loch Ness. Mr. Dunsdale informed the Editor that three flights were conducted at altitudes of between 500 and 1,000 feet, but that strong easterly winds made return trips back up the Loch (toward Inverness) very difficult. Also, visibility was very poor on one of the flights due to a strong mist which moved over the Loch from the North Sea.

While an airship the size of the Europa is extremely expensive to build and operate, a much smaller vehicle, designed to carry two or three persons, could become a practical method of scanning a relatively large area of the lake over a sustained period of time. It would be an alternative to surface surveillance from land or boat, and sub-surface surveillance, both of which have their limitations.

presents, Robert and Karen Frew want to know. "I want to find out what the heck it was," says Robert Frew. "I want it classified. I want somebody to put a label on it." All the Smithsonian can do is try.

## CRYPTOTRIPS

Grover Krantz and Dianne Horton traveled to the People's Republic of China in June and met with Zhou Guo-xing at the Beijing Natural History Museum (both Krantz and Zhou are ISC Board members), and were briefed on Wildman research in China. They then traveled to Europe, visiting ISC member Anders Hed and Lake Storsjo in Sweden (a reputed "monster lake"), and spending several days at Bernard Heuvelmans' Center for Cryptozoology at Le Bugue, France. Dr. Heuvelmans, President of ISC, briefed Dr. Krantz and Ms. Horton on the status of his research and ISC business was discussed at length.

Ron Westrum visited Lake Payette, in western Idaho, in mid-August, to investigate "monster" reports there. Several recent reports were uncovered, and they will be written-up for ISC.

Joseph Zarzynski and Pat

Meaney left for Scotland in early August for a visit to Loch Ness, Loch Assynt, Loch Oich, Loch Lochy, Loch Shiel, and Loch Morar, where they conducted lakeside surveillance and promoted ISC membership. Their Scotland trip capped off a summer's work of monster hunting at Lake Champlain, New York.

George Zug did field work in Fiji in April and May. He

states that his trip had no cryptozoological implications, and further claims that he only went to the beach to collect reptiles.

ISC members who conduct interesting fieldwork or take interesting trips are requested to send such information to the Editor, so that he may include summaries in this CRYPTOTRIPS column.

--Editor



ISC Board Members Grover Krantz (left) and Zhou Guo-Xing meeting at the Beijing Natural History Museum during Dr. Krantz's visit to China (interpreter in center).

## CRYPTOLETTERS

Dear Editor:

The item about the "Olentangy Monster" (*The ISC Newsletter*, Spring, 1982) sighted at Columbus, Ohio, suggests that it may have been a male northern elephant seal. It cites Roy Mackal's book *Searching for Hidden Animals*, in which Dr. Mackal attributes sightings in the White River of Arkansas to a wide-wandering male elephant seal which found itself at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and finally appeared in the White River, a tributary of the Mississippi.

My principal objection to the suggestion that male elephant seals were the monsters sighted in the Olentangy and White Rivers stems from the fact that northern elephant seals are found **only** in the northern Pacific Ocean -- on islands off the coasts of California and Baja California (though individuals have

been reported from time to time as far north as British Columbia). There are no elephant seals in the North Atlantic, and southern elephant seals are restricted to the sub-Antarctic islands. Therefore, for a northern elephant seal to reach the U.S. Midwest river systems via the Mississippi, it would first have to pass through the locks of the Panama Canal into the Gulf of Mexico (the only alternative would involve traversing thousands of miles of desert, mountain and plain).

This does not eliminate the possibility that an escapee from a zoo or oceanarium might take up residence in a Midwest river. I can put no credence in that idea, however, for a number of reasons. Elephant seals, especially adult males, have not been maintained in very many zoos and oceanariums in the United States. These animals, like all true seals, do not move about with facility on land, progressing inchworm fashion by anchoring the foreflippers and pulling

the body forward. Zoo enclosures are carefully designed to prevent escape, but even if an elephant seal did somehow get out of its quarters, it would still have to make it over the perimeter fence or through the turnstiles, then find its way to a river, which in all possible Midwest or Southern zoo locations would, I believe, be a considerable distance away. Finally, the escape of an adult (16-18 foot) elephant seal, if we suspend rational judgment and assume that this could happen, would be eminently newsworthy, but neither I nor, I'll wager, any other of your readers have ever heard of such a thing happening.

F.G. Wood  
Biosciences Dept.  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems  
Center  
San Diego, California

(Mr. Wood is on the ISC Board of Directors and is founder of The Society for the Elimination of the Term Octopi from the English Language.)

# CRYPTOQUOTE

"But Bear Lake / Utah / is perhaps preeminent for its mysterious reputation inasmuch as there is abundant testimony on record -- or the formally registered oaths, moreover, of men whom I know from personal acquaintance to be incapable of willful untruth -- of the actual existence to the present day of an immense aquatic animal of some species as yet unknown to science.

"Now credulity is both a failing and a virtue -- a failing when it arises from ignorance, a virtue when it arises from an intelligent recognition of possibilities. Any ignoramus, for instance, can believe in the existence of the sea-serpent. And Professor Owen, one of the very wisest of living men, is quite ready to accept testimony as to the existence of a monster of hitherto unrecorded dimensions. But while the former will take his monster in any shape offered to him, the professor, as he told me himself, will have nothing unless it is a seal or a cuttle-fish...

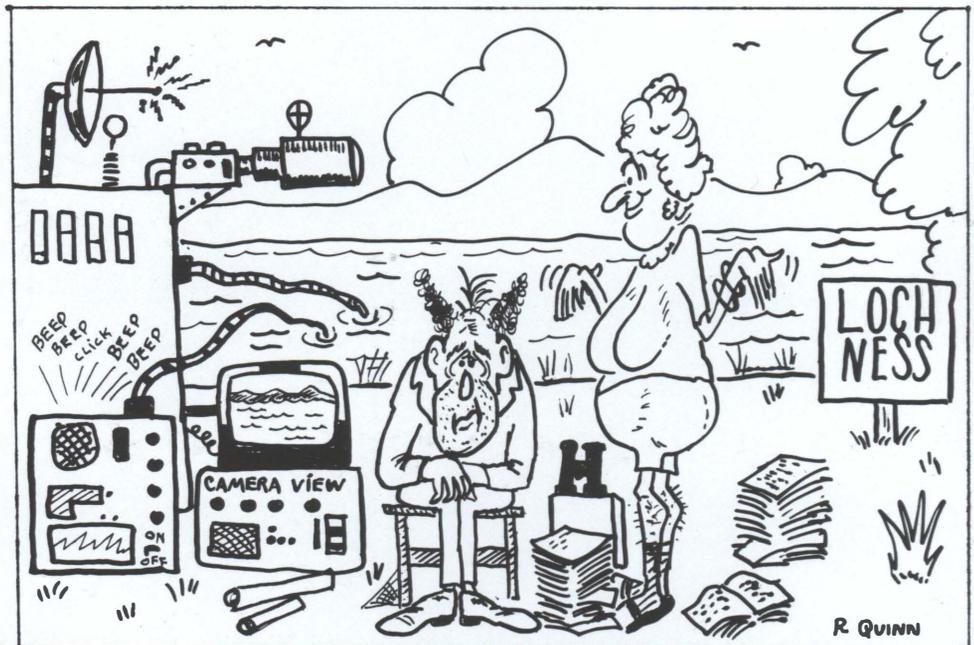
"With this preamble, let me say that I believe in the Bear Lake Monster, and I have these reasons for the faith that is in me: that the men whose testimony is on record

are trustworthy and agree as to their facts, and that their facts point to a very possible monster... which sufficiently substantiates the Indian legends... Let the Smithsonian see to it."

Plil Robinson  
 (From "Saunterings in Utah." Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol. 67, October, 1883.)

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Initial plans are being made for the Second (1983) Annual Meeting of the ISC Board of Directors in New York City, hosted by Dr. Joseph Gennaro, Department of Biology, New York University. It is hoped that the afternoon of the second day (a Saturday) could involve a meeting of all ISC members wishing to attend, and several informal presentations on cryptozoology -- as well as a reception -- could be held. The Meeting will be held sometime in the Spring of 1983. Further information will be published when it is available.



"DON'T TAKE IT SO BAD, HENRY, HUNDREDS OF BIOLOGISTS HAVE FAILED TO SEE THE LOCH NESS MONSTER, AND HAVE GONE ON TO LEAD HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES."

## The ISC Newsletter

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