The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

Winter 1987
Vol. 6, No. 4

Editor
J. Richard Greenwell

The ISC Newsletter is an official publication of the International Society of Cryptozoology, and is published for Society members and institutional subscribers. Membership is $25 annually; institutional subscriptions are $35. Membership and subscription inquiries and correspondence, should be addressed to ISC, Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA; (602) 884-8369.

News media services may quote up to 250 words from this publication, provided that the source is given.

ISSN 0741-5362

NESSIE SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHT OF EDINBURGH MEETING

Robert H. Rines, President of the Academy of Applied Science, addressing the symposium "The Search for Nessie in the 1980's" held in the lecture theatre at the Royal Museum of Scotland during the Society's 1987 Membership Meeting in Edinburgh.

The Sixth Annual Membership Meeting of the Society was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 25-26, 1987, hosted by the National Museums of Scotland. David Heppell, curator of mollusca at the Royal Museum of Scotland and a member of the Society's Board of Directors, served as chairman of the unprecedented two-day event. This was the first membership meeting in Britain--the second in Europe--since the Society's founding in 1982.

For the first time, the meeting was dedicated to particular cryptozoological topics through formal symposia. Because of the location of the meeting, the first-day symposium was dedicated to the venerable Loch Ness Monster, and was entitled "The Search for Nessie in the 1980s." The second-day symposium was entitled "Some Cats of Cryptozoology." A total of 12 illustrated presentations were made during the two symposia, each of which was followed by questions from the floor.

Also for the first time, the meeting was held jointly with another organization, the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH), based at the British Museum (Natural History), in London, thanks to the initiative of Jack Gibson. Besides running the Scottish Natural History Library, Dr. Gibson is secretary of the Scottish Branch of SHNH. ISC was very pleased to have such co-sponsorship. Close to 200 ISC and SHNH members and their guests attended the two-day meeting--the largest attendance ever--which was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Museum of Scotland. The public was also admitted, although ISC and SHNH members received seating preference.

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of two individuals: David James, former Member of Parliament, founder of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, and Honorary Member of the Society, who died while the meeting was being planned (he undoubtedly

Jack Gibson welcoming ISC and SHNH members. David Heppell at right.

would have been a speaker had he lived); and Ian Lyster, a curator of ornithology at the Royal Museum (and their unofficial Nessie expert), who died just prior to the meeting.

The first-day Nessie symposium was preceded by a social hour, which allowed many British ISC members to meet and get acquainted. After the social hour, Dr. Robert G. W. Anderson, Director of the National Museums of Scotland, welcomed all in a brief address. This was followed by welcoming remarks from Dr. Gibson on behalf of SHNH, and the morning session of the Nessie symposium, which was dedicated to "theoretical" presentations. The first speaker was Richard Fitter, a co-founder of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau with David James, who talked on "The History of the Loch Ness Monster."

Mr. Fitter, now Chairman of Britain's Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, reviewed the early history of Nessie sightings, searches, and events from the 1930's, culminating with the work of the Bureau in the 1960's. His talk, which included "lost" Bureau film footage uncovered recently by Tim Dinsdale, provided the needed historical foundation for the symposium, and it also served as a point of departure for other symposium speakers.

Richard Fitter.

The second presentation was by Roy P. Mackal, a University of Chicago biochemist who had served as the Bureau's research director and now serves as ISC Vice President. He is also author of the book The Monsters of Loch Ness. In his talk, entitled "The Biology of the Loch Ness Monster," Dr. Mackal reviewed all the possible Nessie candidates, from invertebrates to mammals, pointing out the pros and cons of each hypothesis in relation to our knowledge of ecology and physiology.

Dr. Mackal concluded that no hypothesis is completely satisfactory in terms of the eyewitness, sonar, and photographic evidence, but his talk represented an excellent overview of the biological problems presented by Nessie reports. He also discussed the "trapped" versus the "transient" hypothesis; that is, whether the Ness animals--and those at other "monster lakes"--are physically restricted (and thus ecologically restricted) to the loch, or whether they inhabit either loch or sea by preference.

Henry H. Bauer, a professor of chemistry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was the next speaker. Dr. Bauer, author of the recent book The Enigma of Loch Ness, spoke on "Public Perception and the Loch Ness Monster," and he reviewed media attitudes towards Nessie based on his analysis of newspaper and magazine articles published over the past 50 years.

Using graphs to illustrate his points, Dr. Bauer reviewed how the media had treated Nessie reports in the pre- and post-war eras, with an increase of positive coverage in the 1970's. Overall, he has found factors other than the quality of the evidence to have affected the amount and nature of media coverage of Nessie. Dr. Bauer's presentation was an extension of a paper published in Vol. 1 of Cryptozoology (1982).

The fourth speaker was Canadian oceanographer Paul H. LeBlond, who reported on the results of his analysis of the famous Wilson ("surgeon's") photo, taken in 1934. The official title was: "The Wilson Nessie Photo: A Size Determination Based on Physical Principles." By determining the weather conditions and wind speed near Loch Ness on the date in question through British meteorological records, as well as an analysis of the photo itself, Dr. LeBlond, through various calculations, has been able to estimate the length of the adjacent wind waves appearing in the photograph, thus giving a scale for estimating the object's size.

Paul LeBlond.

The object was found to be about 1.2 meters (4 feet) in height. This would eliminate the hypothesis that the object was an otter's tail (or neck), as has been proposed, as well as the bird hypothesis. Dr. LeBlond, who is chairman of the Department of Oceanography at the University of British Columbia, conducted a similar analysis on the Mansi photo from Lake Champlain several years ago, the

results of which were published in Vol. 1 of Cryptozoology (1982). A research report based on his Edinburgh presentation has just appeared in Vol. 6 of Cryptozoology (1987).

Following lunch, the afternoon session included three presentations by leading Loch Ness field workers. The first was by Englishman Adrian Shine, leader of the Loch Ness and Morar Project, which has been conducting an ongoing search for Nessie for many years. In his talk, entitled "Recent Fieldwork by the Loch Ness and Morar Project," Mr. Shine talked little of Nessie searching itself, but, rather, reviewed the biology, ecology, and general limnology of the loch. Video of the lake bed taken by a remote camera was also shown. Mr. Shine stated that, in collaboration with Lowrance Electronics, Inc., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, his group would soon embark on the most extensive sonar search ever conducted at Loch Ness.

The next speaker was Robert H. Rines, president of the Academy of Applied Science, in Boston, Massachusetts, the other existing group which has worked most at Loch Ness. Dr. Rines's talk was entitled "A Review of Research Contributions to Date of the Academy of Applied Science at Loch Ness." He reviewed the history of AAS work at the loch, including the acquisition in the 1970's of remarkable underwater photos (see his 1982 article in Vol. 1 of Cryptozoology). Dr. Rines, a physicist and patent attorney, discussed the nature of the side-scanning sonar which has been used by the Academy, and, in a hard-hitting conclusion, he went on to criticize the debunkers and "writers of books" who had, in recent years, attempted to discredit the Academy's photograhic and sonar evidence.

Dr. Rines also revealed that the Academy was planning to increase its effort at Loch Ness again, after several years of low-key activity, and that new, previously classified electronic equipment on loan from the U.S. Navy would be deployed. He stated that this equipment would revolutionize work in the murky, peat-stained waters of the loch, Britain's largest lake.

The last speaker of the afternoon session--and the symposium--was British Loch Ness investigator Tim Dinsdale, who has searched continually for Nessie since taking his famous 1960 film footage. With over 50 expeditions, he has spent more time at the loch--trying to obtain the needed photographic evidence to prove Nessie's existence--than any other monster hunter, abandoning his profession as an aeronautical engineer to do so.

Mr. Dinsdale was introduced by his old friend and colleague Roy Mackal, who--to everyone's surprise, including Mr. Dinsdale's--announced that, by a special vote of the Board of Directors, Mr. Dinsdale had just been elected an Honorary Member of the Society, together with three other individuals (see separate article, this issue). Dr. Mackal read a text which he had submitted to the Board reviewing Mr. Dinsdale's almost 30 years of work at Loch Ness, and Mr. Dinsdale, somewhat stunned by the unexpected announcement, went on to accept the Honorary Membership and to deliver his talk.

Tim Dinsdale.

The talk, entitled "Three Decades of Nessie Hunting: A Personal Odyssey," reviewed his own Nessie activities since 1960. His presentation was punctuated by snippets of fine humor, and it was illustrated with many photographs of his work at the loch. Mr. Dindsdale also showed his classic 1960 film footage, as well as old and rare film footage of witness interviews. Mr. Dinsdale's presentation was not intended to prove a point; he simply wanted to share some of his adventures, thoughts, and feelings with a receptive audience, and he was very warmly acknowledged. His talk was a fitting last presentation of the Nessie symposium.

After Mr. Dinsdale's talk, a panel debate involving all the speakers was held, with questions from the audience. Some interesting discussions took place, particularly in light of the fact that this was the first --and possibly the last--time that all the major living investigators and authorities on the Loch Ness Monster were together in one public forum to exchange views.

Nessie symposium speakers posing for photos following the panel debate. Left to right: Robert Rines, Tim Dinsdale, Roy Mackal, Paul LeBlond, Richard Fitter, Henry Bauer, and Adrian Shine.

Di Francis with mounted Kellas cat.

The cats symposium, held on the following day, commenced with a presentation by British "Big Cat" investigator Di Francis, who spoke on "The Case for the British Big Cat." Ms. Francis, author of Cat Country: The Quest for the British Big Cat, reviewed her fieldwork and findings over several years, and presented evidence in support of the controversial hypothesis that a breeding population of a large, unknown felid species inhabits Britain. The most famous incidents have been dubbed the "Surrey puma" and the "Beast of Exmoor" (see Newsletter, Autumn, 1983).

In her talk, Ms. Francis stated that she had collected hundreds of eyewitness reports from all over Britain going back many decades, which indicates a nationwide pattern. Most communities, however, have been generally unaware that the same kinds of sightings--and sometimes livestock predation--have been reported elsewhere. She also displayed footprint casts--which were not of dog footprints--showing claw marks. The only cat which consistently leaves claw marks in its tracks is the cheetah, but her casts were not of cheetah tracks.

Ms. Francis went on to discuss the black cats killed recently in Scotland, where she now lives, and she produced a mounted specimen. Now known as the Kellas cats, these felids are about the size of the European wild cat, but are almost totally black. There has been much speculation in Britain as to whether they are melanistic wild cats, wild cat/feral domestic crosses, or a completely new species of cat still not recognized by zoology.

Karl Shuker, who had just completed a doctorate in zoology at Britain's Birmingham University, was the next speaker, and he went on to describe the Kellas specimen he had examined. In his talk, entitled "The Kellas Cat: An Overlooked Felid from Scotland," Dr. Shuker stated that he had found a number of anatomical features similar to those found in the wild cat, and others similar to those found in domestic cats. He concluded, however, that the several specimens obtained up to that time were too similar anatomically to be feral or feral/wild cat crosses.

Dr. Shuker stated that there were some similarities between the Kellas cats and a black Transcaucasian wild cat described in the 1920's--since fallen into scientific disrepute. It is possible, he proposed, that it could be the same animal, which may have been introduced into Britain by the Romans.

The third presentation of the morning session was a joint talk by Lena and Paul Bottriell, who spoke on "The King Cheetah: A New Race in the Making?" The king cheetah, which displays striking black stripes, was scientifically described as a new species in the 1920's, but most authorities now regard it as a mutant. Mrs. Bottriell, author of the recent book King Cheetah: The Story of the Quest, reviewed the history of the king cheetah, their field work in Africa tracking down sighting reports--and skins--and their conclusions.

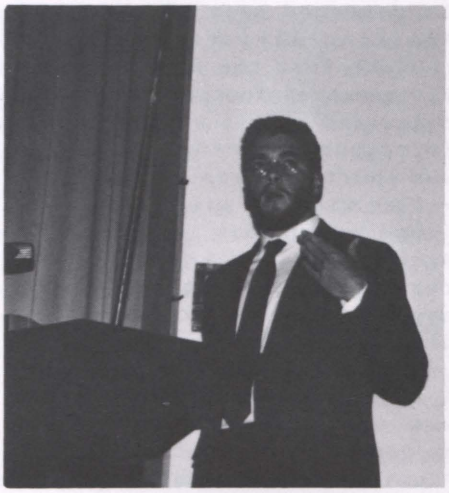
Lena Bottriell

In their talk, the British investigators proposed that the king cheetah represents a new race in the making. That is, a form of cheetah which is rapidly adapting to a woodland habitat--rather than the usual savannah cheetah habitat--and, as a result, is branching off to form its own subspecies, representing, in effect, "evolution happening before our eyes."

The afternoon cat session was shorter, with only two presentations. The first was by J. Richard Greenwell and Troy L. Best on "The Onza: Its History and Biology." Mr. Greenwell, who serves as Secretary of ISC in Tucson, Arizona, and Dr. Best, a University of New Mexico mammalogist, discussed the history of Onza finds since the 1930's, and concluded with their dissection of an actual specimen in 1986 (see Newsletter, Spring, 1986). The Onza is a supposed puma-like cat of Mexico's western Sierra Madre range reported to be slimmer, longer-legged, and more aggressive than the puma.

Although the limb bones of the new female Onza appear to be longer than those of an average female puma, they stated, further bone measurements in museum collections--and statistical analyses--need to be undertaken before conclusions can be reached. Biochemical studies are also planned. Tentatively, Mr. Greenwell and Dr. Best proposed that the Onza may represent either a new species of cat or a still undetermined genetic peculiarity.

The last presentation of the cats symposium--and of the entire Membership Meeting--was by Victor A. Albert, a biology graduate student at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island, who spoke on the Queensland Tiger. His talk was entitled: "The Queensland Tiger-Cat: Evidence for the Possible Survival of the Marsupial Lion, Thylacoleo, Into Recent Times." Mr. Albert reviewed a series of eyewitness reports from Queensland, Australia, which tend to support the hypothesis that the Pleistocene marsupial "sabre-toothed cat" Thylacoleo may still survive.



Victor Albert.

Although the evidence is sketchy, Mr. Albert proposed that the evidence that does exist is indicative of Thylacoleo rather than the thylacine--the marsupial "wolf" which supposedly became extinct on mainland Australia several thousand years ago, and which some cryptozoological authorities have proposed as an explanation for Queensland Tiger reports. Mr. Albert stated that he plans to visit Australia to determine if the Queensland Tiger is still being reported.

The 1987 Membership Meeting was certainly the most successful the Society has ever held. Furthermore, it is believed to be the first time that a scientific institution has hosted a meeting on the Loch Ness Monster (a planned conference at the University of Edinburgh in the 1970's was cancelled because of premature and sensational publicity). Following the meeting, some members took a specially arranged bus tour to Loch Ness, which included an overnight stay. This allowed those who would not otherwise have had the time--and had not already done so--to visit the loch itself.

Thanks are due to a number of individuals who made the meeting possible: David Heppell, who not only chaired all the sessions but made all the local arrangements; G. W. Anderson, the director of the National Museums for agreeing to host a meeting involving such a controversial topic as cryptozoology--particularly the Nessie symposium; Jack Gibson, for arranging joint sponsorship with the Society for the History of Natural History; and, of course, all of the speakers.

The Society is also pleased to announce that the journal Scottish Naturalist, whose editor is the same Dr. Gibson, will shortly be publishing the edited proceedings of the Nessie symposium. The ISC Board agreed to Dr. Gibson's proposal, particularly since publication will not involve any expense for the Society. The proceedings will appear as the 1988 centennial issue of the Scottish Naturalist--a very fitting tribute to Nessie.

This centennial issue will be published in the Autumn of 1988, and ISC members will receive a price discount. Details on ordering will appear in a forthcoming newsletter. □

1988 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Society's 1988 Membership Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at the University of Maryland, College Park. The Meeting is being organized by ISC Board member Eugenie Clark, of the Department of Zoology, which is hosting the meeting. The meeting is to begin at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1250 of the Zoology-Psychology Building. The following speakers and topics have been scheduled:

--"Searching for Cryptic Deep-Sea Sharks," by Eugenie Clark

--"Techniques Used in the Search for Eastern Cougars," by Robert L. Downing

--"Do Ursid Characteristics Bear on the Yeti Question?," by Daniel Taylor-Ide

--"Applying Modern Technology to Monster Hunting at Lake Champlain," by Joseph W. Zarzynski

--"Sea Serpent Sightings off the Eastern Seaboard Since the U.S. Civil War," by Malcolm J. Bowman and Gary S. Mangiacopra

--"A Chronology of Significant Chessie Events in Chesapeake Bay," by Michael A. Frizzell

All Society members and their guests will be very welcome. As usual, there is no registration or admission fee. The Society does not make any hotel or meal bookings, so members wishing to attend should make their own arrangements. A more detailed form letter and a program are being mailed to all East Coast members. Those wishing additional information are requested to call the Secretariat at (602) 884-8369. □

DEEPSCAN

A full report on Operation Deepscan, conducted recently at Loch Ness, will be presented in the Spring, 1988, issue.

GIANT BEAR SOUGHT BY SOVIETS

In late September, 1987, UPI carried a report from the Soviet newspaper Pravda on a supposed giant bear inhabiting the far northeastern Kamchatka region, not far from the U.S. Aleutian Islands. Said to weigh over a ton, the bear has reportedly been sighted for many years by local reindeer breeders, who call it irquiem.

More recently, two other publications have shed new light on the subject. First, an article appeared in the magazine Hunting and Hunting Industry (No. 9, 1987), and an English translation has been provided to the Editor by Soviet ISC Board member Dmitri Bayanov. The article is by Nikolaj K. Vereshchagin, a mammalogist at the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in Leningrad.

"Last winter I received an interesting letter from the north of the Kamchatka Region," states Dr. Vereshchagin. "Its author, 36-year-old hunter Rodion Nikolaevich Sivolobov, reports that, according to the evidence collected over a 10-year period, they encounter, on rare occasions, another kind of bear which is twice as big as the usual brown bear. Its height at the withers reaches 1.5 meters, and its weight is up to 1.5 tons.

"The Koryaks and Chukchees call it kainyn-kutkho ('God-bear'), and another name is irquiem," continues Dr. Vereshchagen. "It is rare, but in the Olyutorsk, Karaginsk, and Tigilsk districts, local reindeer breeders killed irquiem in 1976, 1980, and 1982.

"What kind of animal is this?... Only 10-12,000 years ago, the last specimens of of the gigantic short-muzzled bear Arctodus simus roamed North America, from Alaska to California. American scientists believe Arctodus to have been the largest land predator of the mammal age.... What if Arctodus, having died out in America, is extant in the Chukchee and Kamchatka peninsulas? What if irquiem is a trimmed-down descendant of Arctodus?! There could be no better solution to the riddle."

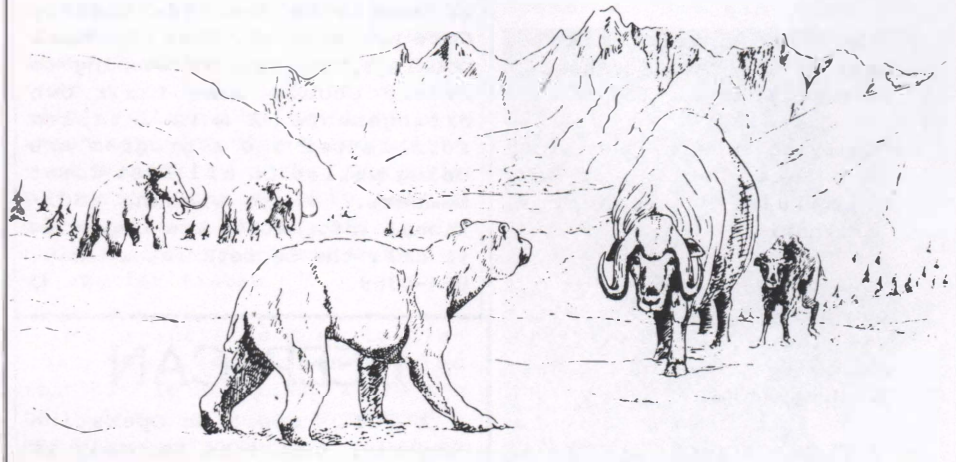
Dr. Vereshchagen concludes with a hope for further developments: "Of course, I wrote back ...and asked him to send me just one tooth or a fragment of a bone of the irquiem from the reindeer breeders' camps. Let's wait and see, but in the meantime the information must be spread far and wide, as well as the call to conserve the last specimens of giants."

It should be noted that Dr. Vereshchagen is an internationally recognized zoologist, specializing in the ecology, zoogeography, and paleontology of Soviet mammals. His postulating that Arctodus may survive today as a "living fossil" in the form of the irquiem is a bold step. Arctodus simus, was a relatively short-bodied but long-legged bear of the North American Pleistocene. It is thought that the species had a fleetness of foot unusual for a bear, and it was undoubtedly a ferocious predator. Its face was short, and its muzzle broad --like with the big cats. It was found throughout most of North America to Mexico, and it has been proposed that its demise may have been due to competition from brown bears.

The second article on this new cryptozoological claim appeared in an article entitled "Hunt for the Ice Age Monster," in the December, 1987 issue of Pravda Monthly, which is published in English. The author, Pravda correspondent A. Androshin, had traveled to the village of Tilichiki, in the Koryask Autonomous Region, to meet with Sivolobov shortly before he was to start another search for physical evidence of the mysterious carnivore.

"Our descendants will never forgive us if the 20th century allows such an unusual member of the animal kingdom to die out," Sivolobov is quoted as saying. "There is a very real danger of this happening. That is why I decided to go on another expedition." A firefighter by training, Sivolobov is also an experienced tundra hunter.

Correspondent Androshin says that Sivolobov has collected



Artist's rendition of the giant North American bear Arctodus simus. *Other Pleistocene megafauna in background. (Columbia University Press.)*

several dozen eyewitness reports of the giant bear, mainly from reindeer breeders and herdsmen. Androshin describes the bear as having "...short back legs and a head which looks very small in proportion to its body.... It would seem that it cannot run, but moves in an almost caterpillar-like way, throwing down its forepaws and heaving the back ones up to meet them."

The short back legs and the astonishing locomotary behavior described does not seem to correlate with the rapid, predatory behavior of A. simus, although it is possible that the behavior described is a mere folk embellishment meant for the enjoyment of the listener. It is also possible that A. simus may have evolved into a shorter-legged ursid since the Pleistocene.

In the spring of 1987, the article states, Sivolobov finally managed to obtain a skin of the supposed animal, now hanging in his home in Tilichiki. He sent samples from the skin--and a photograph of it--to zoologists in Moscow and Leningrad. His evidence received mixed reactions. They have asked him to obtain a skull, or at least some teeth, and this he is now determined to do.

"This time I am not going into the tundra alone," Sivolobov states. "Someone is coming to help me. I'm ready to spend my entire annual leave on this one. If I don't get what I need this time, then I'll go again. Actually, in the end I don't care what the irquiem turns out to be, whether it's just a huge bear or a descendant from the Ice Age. The main thing is to draw back the veil of mystery surrounding it, and to find out once and for all what exactly it is."

Correspondent Androshin also approached Dr. Vereshchagin for his personal opinion on the matter. Dr. Vereshchagin, who also serves as Deputy Chairman of the Academy's Committee on Mammoths, is quoted as stating: "...the reader would be right to ask whether it is, in fact, possible for animals which we had thought extinct to be still living somewhere in the world. For example, the mysterious dinosaurs of the Congo swamps, or the remarkable fish at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. I think it is perfectly possible, especially when we are talking about marine life.... So, I would say that Mr. Sivolobov's work deserves our support and encouragement...."

Dr. Vereshchagin concludes: "I personally do not in any way exclude the possibility that there is an eighth species of bear in the world today. The theory that it could be a close relative of an extinct Ice Age bear does not seem so far-fetched either." □

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

At year's end, the Society had a total of almost 800 members, representing a slow but steady climb. Thanks to the generosity of 125 Sustaining Members and three Benefactors, we were again able to meet all our operating expenses--if not our deadlines. I must apologize for the tardiness of this last 1987 newsletter, although Vol. 6 of the journal appeared more on schedule.

Part of the reason for the delay of this particular newsletter is due to two factors. First, our computer, originally donated by Benefactor Kurt Von Nieda, has gone to that big softwear meadow in the sky. This means the Society will have to purchase a new computer out of normal operating funds, which it really cannot afford to do. The machine which has been selected, for almost exactly $1,000, is an IBM clone manufactured by Tussey Computer Products, a Swan XT Mono System. This machine takes the more compatible 5-1/4" disks -- our previous Xerox computer took only 8" disks. We believe that our old Diablo printer will be compatible with the new computer.

The other problem is a need to relocate quarters before long. Since 1985, the Society has sublet a modest office from a word processing firm for a very low rent. This arrangement is being terminated, and the Society must now find new quarters. Almost certainly, the Society's rental costs will now also be increasing, and, combined with the computer expense, will result in higher overall operating expenses for 1988.

Thus, the support of members in the form of added donations--making them Sustaining Members for 1988--would be very much appreciated. Those members wishing to help out with the purchase of the new computer should earmark their donations to "Computer Fund." A full listing of contributors and amounts donated will be run in a future newsletter, as well as details on the relocation of the Secretariat.

Meanwhile, we ask for members' patience until we reorganize and get the newsletters back on schedule.

J. Richard Greenwell
Editor

"We should treat our minds as innocent and ingenuous children whose guardian we are--be careful what objects and what subjects we thrust on their attention."

Henry David Thoreau

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Thanks to the continued support of its Benefactors and Sustaining Members, the Society was again able to meet its financial obligations during the 1987 fiscal year. The Secretariat is pleased to announce that 125 members contributed additional funds beyond the normal $25 membership fee during the year, automatically making them Sustaining Members. This is the highest ever. Most Sustaining Members added $5 or $10 when sending in their renewal checks or when first joining. Others are even more generous, with amounts of $50, $100 or higher. The Officers and Board Members of the Society are very grateful for these contributions, which help close the gap between membership income and operating costs, a gap which usually amounts to about $10,000 a year.

The 1987 Sustaining Members are:

Victor Albert, Robert Ash, Greg Aten, Ronald Banister, Tamara Bartholomew, Dominic Belfield, Wally Bellows, Francis Bernard, William Bevins, James Brewer, Brett Brunner, Bruce and Beverley Burgess, Boyd Carrick, Wayne Cermak, Joseph Ciano, Chris and Madi Cousins, Loren Coleman, Blair Cooke, Darryl Coon, Peter Crall, Louise Deadman, Marc DeLamater, David De Lucca, Franziska Dokter, Alex Downs, III, William Dragovan, Clinton Drymon, Conrad Durst, George Earley, Tim Edwards, Richard Ellis, David Flood, Robert Floyd, Errol Fuller, Hazel Gallas and Christine Smith, Russell Gebhart, J.O. Gelderloos, Charles Gentile, Dan Gettinger, Gary Gieseke, Daniel Gilbert, Brandon Gilmore, David Gipson, Shirley Gipson, Dennis Glavin, Eric Gothard, Benoit Grison, Richard Guilmette, Mark Hall, Willard Hart, Wayne Harris, Peter Hartmann, John Heckman, Richard Heiden, James Hewkin, Richard Hobbs, Seth Hoenig, Geoffrey Hunt, Woodson Johnson, Joseph Joyce, David Judge, Christ Kanoles, Phil Keb, Michael and Laura Keene, Donald Kellar, L.J. Kendall, Peter Kirkham, Mark Kolodny, Lawrence Kubacki, II, Walter Langbein, Wendy Lathrop, Paul LeBlond and Annette Shaw, Nicholas Le Souef, Jan Libourel, Lorna Lloyd, Anthony Loredo, Daniel Lyons, Glen McClelland, James McLeod, Roy Mackal, John Maliwacki, Gary Mangiacopra, William Mezzono, Douglas Miller, Garryl Miller.

Marc Miller, Charles Minderhout, Martin Morgan, Billy Morrison, Robert Moy, Gloria Nease, Tim Norris, Jean Palesi, Kevin Pazaski, Maurizio Pettinelli, Howie Pine, James Powell, Peter Pranis, Jr., Michael Pugliese, Andrew Ragan, Michel Raynal, Herman Reichenbach, Bruce and Jannie Rivera, James Robbins, Adam Rowen, Eileen Roy, Stanley Samuelson, Gabriel Sanchez, Ennio Scannapieco, John Schaefer, Michael Shields, Christopher Smith, Ted Straighton, Joe Swatek, Tokuharu Takabayashi, Gavin Troster, Hugh Trotti, Jr., Anders Tullberg, Henry Van Epp, Christopher Walas, Thomas Wilkinson, Thomas Williams, Edmund Wood, Forrest Wood, Joseph Zarzynski and Pat Meaney.

Members are again encouraged to donate a little extra to the Society in 1988, with the reminder that membership rates have not increased since our founding in 1982. Those members who have not already renewed for 1988 may do so by using the return envelope enclosed with this newsletter. For those who have already renewed, donations may be made at any time of the year--using the enclosed envelope if they like--to qualify for Sustaining Membership. All donations are tax deductible for U.S. members; the Society's IRS Tax Identification No. is 94-2915129.

The Society is particularly indebted to Benefactors Robert Dorion, Edward "Ned" Winn, and Count F.C. Zedlitz, for their generous support during 1987. □

RENEWAL INFORMATION

With receipt of this newsletter, it is time to renew membership in the Society for 1988. The good news is that, while all other payments members make have probably been going up and up over the years, membership in the Society has remained constant since its founding in 1982. For the seventh consecutive year, the annual fee is only $25. This includes, of course, receipt of the quarterly newsletter (even if they don't always appear quarterly, members do eventually receive all of them!), and the annual journal, Cryptozoology, which runs about 150 pages.

Because of increasing costs to the Society, including another postal rate hike, we are not sure how long the membership fee can be kept at $25, but it will continue through at least 1988.

Members are asked to use the enclosed return-renewal envelope whenever possible, as these envelopes are used to enter renewal information into the computer (the name/address label used to mail this newsletter is of a special kind which can be peeled off and affixed to the return envelope; please indicate any changes clearly).

While renewing without the envelope is perfectly valid, past experience has shown that fewer processing erros occur when the envelopes themselves are returned. Members in other countries who are paying by international postal money order

or bank draft are also requested to send these envelopes in to either the Switzerland or Arizona Secretariat.

For those who can afford it, a little extra added on to the membership fee would be much appreciated, and automatically makes the contributor a Sustaining Member for the year (and the donation is tax-deductible for U.S. members). This would be particularly welcome this year because of the new computer the Society is having to purchase (see separate article).

The continued support and cooperation of all members is much appreciated. □

JOHN NAPIER 1917-1987

We regret to announce the death, on August 29, 1987, of British primatologist John Napier, at age 70. He had been an Honorary Member of the Society since its founding in 1982. Napier, who had lived in retirement on the Isle of Mull, Scotland, for several years, was well known to Society members for his interest in the Sasquatch. He was one of the few primate experts willing to publicly entertain the possibility that such an animal could exist. He was also regarded as one of the world's leading thinkers in the evolution and functional morphology of primates, including humans. The following obituary is by Mary-Ellen Morbeck, a physical anthropologist at the University of Arizona, who knew Napier and his work well.

The death of John Napier ends a distinguished career in science and public education. Napier's work was primarily related to the anatomy of humans, our closest living primate relatives, and our fossil ancestors. This was not restricted to narrow or obscure areas of research, however, as he always applied his concepts to a broad view of primate evolution. His views had a tremendous impact on primatology and what it means to be a primate. It can be stated that his work provided the first comprehensive data base of primate biology, behavior, and, to a lesser extent, ecology; it certainly changed the direction of primate studies in the 1960's.

John Napier was originally trained as a clinical anatomist, being introduced to fossil primates by Sir Wilfred E. LeGros Clark. In the 1950's and 1960's he worked on the anatomy and movement capabilities of the human hand, later moving on to locomotion and posture and the evolution of human bipedalism. In the late 1950's, he interpreted form and function in fossil primates, with the first major work on Proconsul in 1959. It was then that he developed his ideas about the relationships between anatomy and locomotion, especially locomotor categories, and these evolved into his broad view of primates, including humans. In the 1960's, with the discovery of fossil hominids in East Africa, he undertook the interpretation of the function of many bones, and, together with Louis Leakey and Phillip Tobias, he described Homo habilis, now recognized as the earliest species in the human genus.

After founding the Unit of Primatology at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, in London, Napier went on to establish and direct the Primate Biology Program at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. It was during this period that he became interested in the problem of the reported North American Sasquatch, and he was particularly interested in the anatomical problems presented by the "cripple foot" tracks found near Bossburg, Washington, in 1969-70. He summarized his thoughts and findings in a 1972 book entitled Bigfoot: The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality, in which he concluded, in very guarded terms, that the Sasquatch was real. He expressed grave doubts about the supposed Himalayan Yeti, although he changed this view just prior to his death.

John Napier. (Rene Dahinden.)

After his tenure at the Smithsonian, Napier returned to England and went on to establish a primate biology program at Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, and, before his retirement to Scotland, he served as a visiting professor at Birkbeck College, University of London. It would not be possible to list all his major published works here. One of his books, A Handbook of Living Primates (1967), co-authored with his wife Prue, is still an important reference work today. They had teamed up again recently to produce The Natural History of the Primates (1985).

John Napier's death does not just end a major chapter in the annals of primatology. We have also lost a great thinker, and a person with a bold, enthusiastic personality who had a genuine sense of exploration.

Mary-Ellen Morbeck
Department of Anthropology
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

By special vote of the Board of Directors, four individuals have been elected Honorary Members of the Society. The individuals are Tim Dinsdale, a principal field investigator of the Loch Ness Monster, John Green, a leading authority and principal bibliographer of the Sasquatch, Lord John Hunt, British mountaineer and long-time investigator of the Himalayan Yeti, and Robert "Bob" Titmus, a principal field investigator of the Sasquatch.

These are the first persons elected as Honorary Members since the first eight individuals were so elected upon the founding of the Society. Since that time, David James (see Newsletter, Spring, 1987) and John Napier (see obituary, this issue) have passed away; both--coincidentally--were retired on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

Honorary Membership, which includes an automatic Life Membership with free receipt of publications, is bestowed upon individuals based on their previous involvement in, commitment to, or support of some area of cryptozoology. Such individuals are usually at--or close to--retirement age. All aspects of a candidate's involvement are evaluated: status, fame, and number of publications are not necessarily the major considerations. Brief biographies of the newly elected Honorary Members follow below.

Tim Dinsdale, of Reading, England, was initiated into cryptozoology when, in 1960, he filmed a mobile object at Loch Ness, which convinced him that he had observed the famous "monster." The film was analyzed by a special photointerpretation unit of the Royal Air Force, which supported that view. This episode changed Dinsdale's life forever, because, as a consequence, he went on to become probably the world's most dedicated field cryptozoologist. By profession, Dinsdale was an aeronautical engineer, a career he abandoned in order to dedicate himself to a systematic, lifelong study of the Loch Ness Monster problem.

Tim Dinsdale.

It can be stated without qualification that, throughout the years, Dinsdale has demonstrated not only a complete dedication to the subject, but also the most rigorous regard for truth and exactitude when reporting the results of his almost 30 years of research. No one--not even the the most cynical of debunkers--has ever hinted that Dinsdale may not be altogether truthful.

Tim Dinsdale has undertaken more then 50 expeditions to Loch Ness, having spent more time there than any other Nessie investigator. Although he has preferred to work more or less alone, he has always extended full cooperation, support, and advice to other investigators. During the 12-year existence of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, Dinsdale worked closely with that group, and he has also cooperated with the ongoing fieldwork of the Academy of Applied Science (U.S.A.) and the Loch Ness and Morar Project (U.K.). Dinsdale is the author of several books on Nessie, including Loch Ness Monster (1961, 1972, 1976, 1982), The Leviathans (1966), and Project Water Horse (1975).

John Green, of Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada, has been actively studying the Sasquatch problem for over 30 years. With a newspaper background--as a writer, editor, and publisher--he has always treated the problem in an objective, sensible way, and his reputation is one of total honesty and integrity. His files contain the largest collection of case records in existence, and he has published more information on the topic than any other investigator, scientist and layman alike. As a result, he is considered the leading authority on the subject.

Besides data collection, Green has also been involved in field investigation, including interviewing witnesses and photographing and casting tracks. Green has also set a prime example in the Sasquatch field, which is beleaguered by feuds and controversy, by having always made his research files available to all legitimate investigators, thus stimulating increased scientific interest in Sasquatch.

John Green is the author of

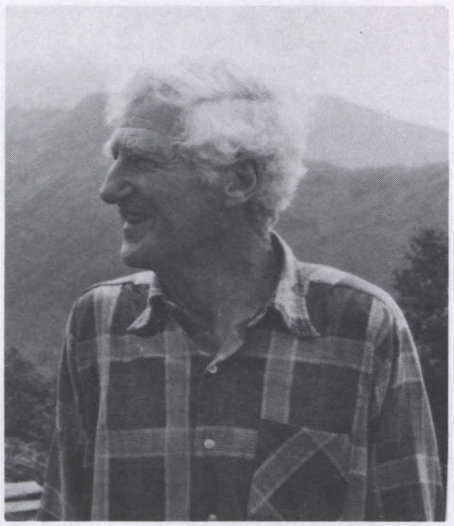
John Green.

three booklets: On the Track of Sasquatch (1968, 1980), Year of the Sasquatch (1970, 1980), and The Sasquatch File (1973), all of which provide important case material. His definitive book Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us (1978) is considered the most complete and authoritative work on this controversial subject.

John Hunt, of Henley-on-Thames, England, has been involved with the Yeti problem since 1937, when he encountered what he believes were Yeti tracks on the Zemu Glacier in the Himalayas. He has since advocated the existence of--and supported investigation of--the Yeti, even during times when such a position was not in vogue. Over 40 years after his first track find, in 1978, he found more tracks of what he thought was a Yeti on the Khumbu Glacier--after trekking more than 200 miles across eastern Nepal.

After graduating from Sandhurst, John Hunt served in the British Army, and, during World War II, was posted to the Middle East, Italy, and Greece. He subsequently served on the staff at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, and the British Army in Germany, retiring as a brigadier. Since then, he has served on many government boards and commissions. He is better known, however, for his mountaineering exploits, which have taken him on expeditions to Europe, the Himalayas, the Caucasus, and Greenland. His greatest achievement was undoubtedly that of leading the 1953 British Mount Everest Expedition, which was the first to successfully put men--Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay--on the summit of the world's highest peak.

Lord Hunt has served as President of the Alpine Club, the Climber's Club, and the British Mountaineering Council. He has also served as President of the Royal Geographical Society. Formerly Sir John Hunt, he was



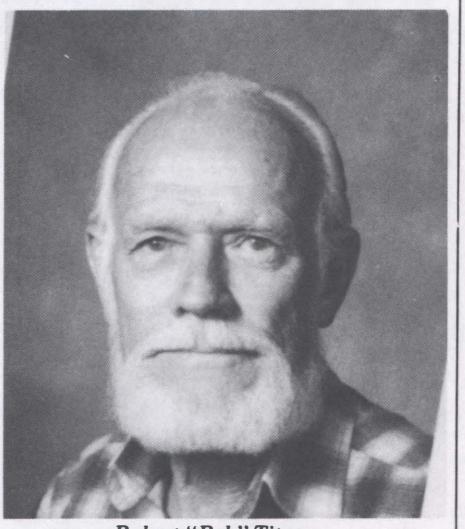
John Hunt.

made a Life Peer (Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine) by Queen Elizabeth in 1966, and a Knight of the Garter in 1979. He is the author of several books, including The Ascent of Everest (1953), and Our Everest Adventure (1954). Lord Hunt continues to champion the cause of the Yeti, advocating expanded investigation and scientific involvement.

Robert Titmus, of Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada, has spent about half a century tracking and hunting in the Pacific Northwest, from California to Alaska. His fieldwork over several decades in North America's most rugged terrain has convinced him that the Sasquatch exists, and his fieldwork is now dedicated to establishing this as a fact. His expertise as an animal tracker is recognized, and he has undoubtedly had more field experience in tracking and searching for the supposed Sasquatch than anyone else alive, layman or scientist.

Titmus served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, seeing action in the South Pacific. He had what he believes was his first Sasquatch sighting while in uniform, not realizing what he had seen until Sasquatch reports became public in the 1950's. Since then, he has had two further sightings, and reportedly has tracked the supposed animals dozens of times. He has what is undoubtedly the largest collection of Sasquatch track casts in existence, and he has made most of the track casts that are currently available from northern California. He was also one of the first to recover for scientific analysis what he thinks are Sasquatch hair specimens.

Bob Titmus is a quiet, modest, and unassuming individual; he has never sought publicity for himself or his activities, preferring to work quietly in the background. He continues to carry out fieldwork, sharing his information freely with any scientist who is interested enough to look at his evidence. Having spent most of his life in the wilderness, Titmus has not pursued writing activities, and thus has no publications of his own. He is, however, one of the major sources in John Green's works (they now live within a few hundred feet of each other in the same town). □



Robert "Bob" Titmus.

CRYPTOLETTERS

We regret not having had space for letters in this issue. The Cryptoletters column will return in the Spring, 1988, issue.

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

"...The largely aquatic anaconda (Eunectes murinus) of the swamps, lakes, and slow-moving rivers of tropical South America...has also been credited with the title of 'longest snake in the world,' but although it is heaviest of the giant serpents...great bulk can often be misleading when it comes to estimating length.... Many extreme measurements have been based on lengths of skins, but these records are unreliable... In the case of the anaconda... the skin can be deliberately stretched, without causing much distortion to the markings, by 30 percent or more.

"...One of the longest anacondas ever captured was a tremendously bulky individual shot by W.L. Schurz (1962) in Brazil, which measured 27 ft. 9 in. ... Clark collected another one near Iquitos which taped 26 ft. 9 in., and an anaconda measuring 26 ft. 3 in. was killed in Pernambuco State, eastern Brazil c. 1948.

"...Dr. Afranio do Amaral (1948), Brazil's leading herpetologist, accepted a record of an 11.28 m. (37 ft.) anaconda, and he said another snake killed in southern Brazil in 1913 by a group of Indians was over 11.6 m. (38 ft.), but these measurements were based solely on written evidence supplied by witnesses. He concluded that the maxiumum length reached by the anaconda was somewhere between 12 m. (39 ft. 4 in.) and 14 m. (45 ft. 11 in.).... Only the medium of water could support that kind of bulk, which would probably explain why so few large anacondas have been collected on terra firma. By the time a length of 28-30 ft. is reached, the snake is so heavy that it is forced to live permanently in a river or lake.

"In November, 1956, an anaconda measuring 10.25 m. (33 ft. 7.2 in.) was reportedly killed in the lower Rio Guaviare, southeast Colombia, but nothing of the snake was saved. Another outsized individual shot near the Colombia-Venezuela border was credited with a length of 37 ft. 6 in., and this may well have been the largest accurately measured anaconda on record.... Col. P.H. Fawcett shot an anaconda on the Rio Abunda not far from the confluence of the Rio Negro, western Brazil, in 1907, which he said measured 62 ft. (45 ft. out of the water and 17 ft. in it), but as this snake had a maximum diameter of only 12 in...this length must be considered excessive."

Abstracted from:

The Guiness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guiness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd. ed.), 1982.

The ISC Newsletter
International Society of Cryptozoology
P.O. Box 43070
Tucson, Arizona 85733
U.S.A.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 1786

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED