SPECIAL EDITION

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SPRING 1977

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SEA MONSTERS

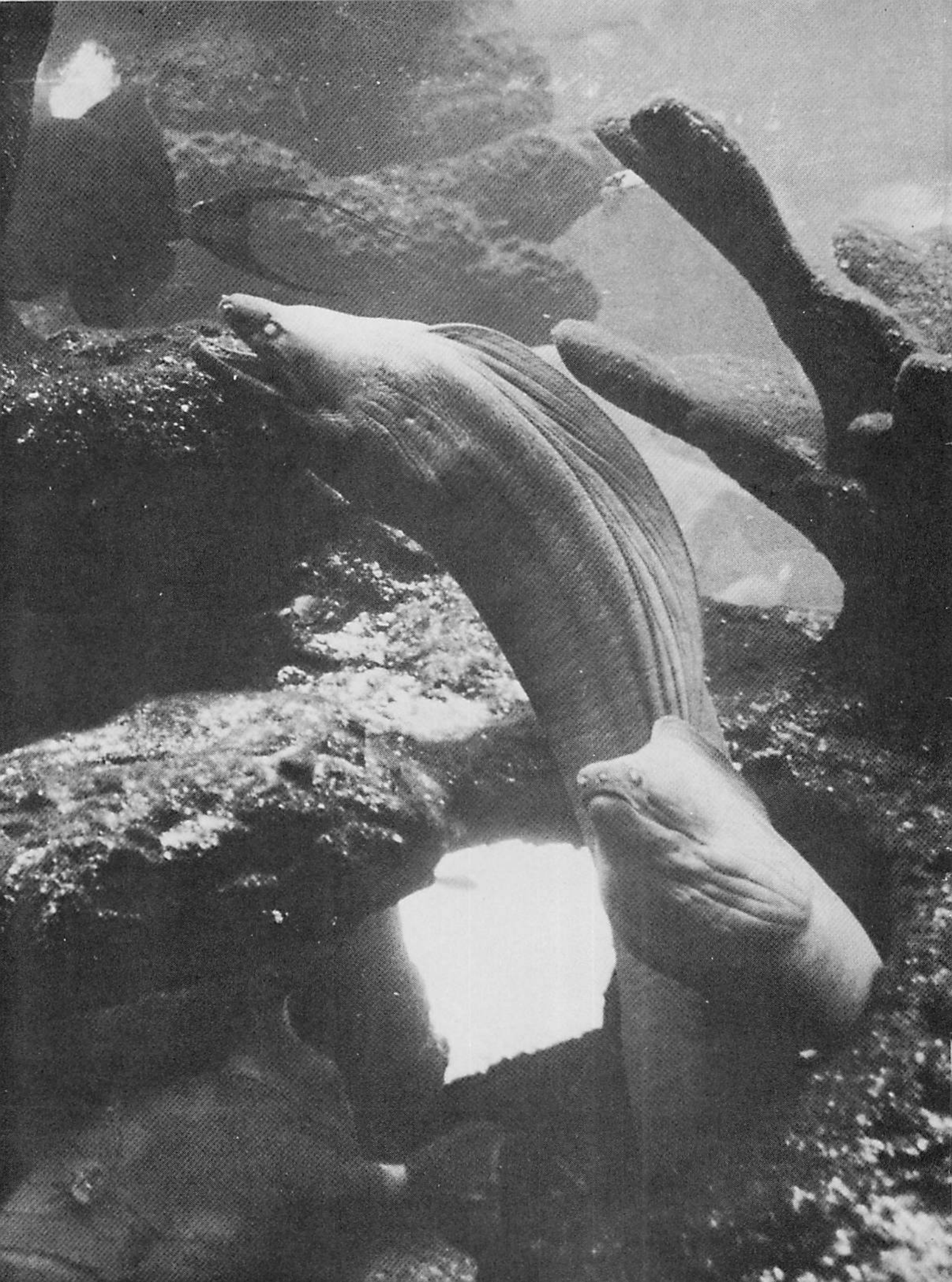
The Century of Sea Serpents: 1800-1900

Water Dwelling Monsters of North America

Coast Guard Diver Sights Monster-Sized Squid!

Creeping Pollution is Attracting Giant Sea Monsters to Our Shores!

The Selkies: Seal People of the North!



Sea Monsters

SPRING 1977 VOL. 2, NO. 1

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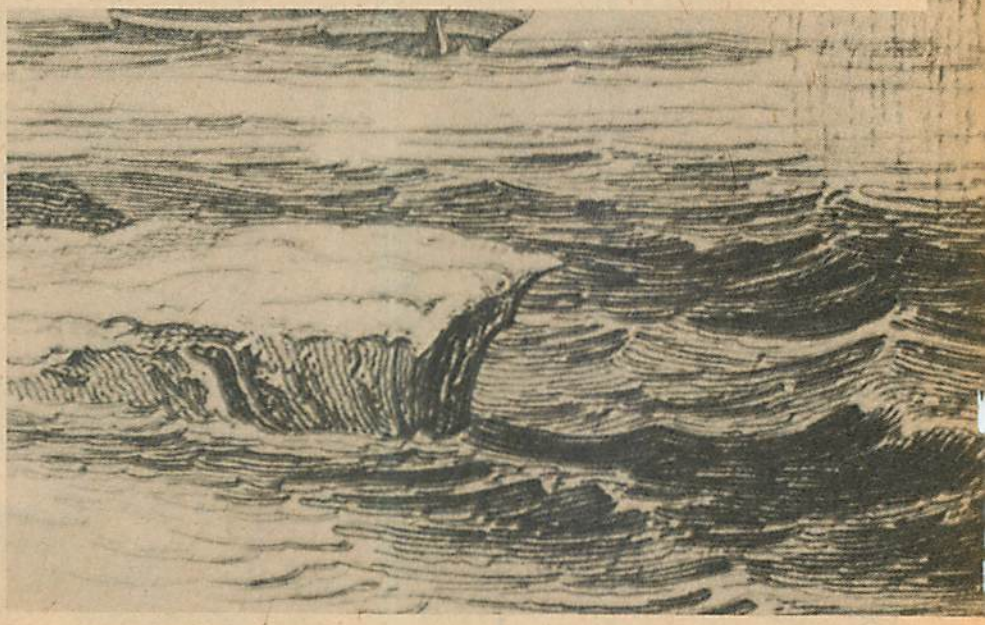


Editorial

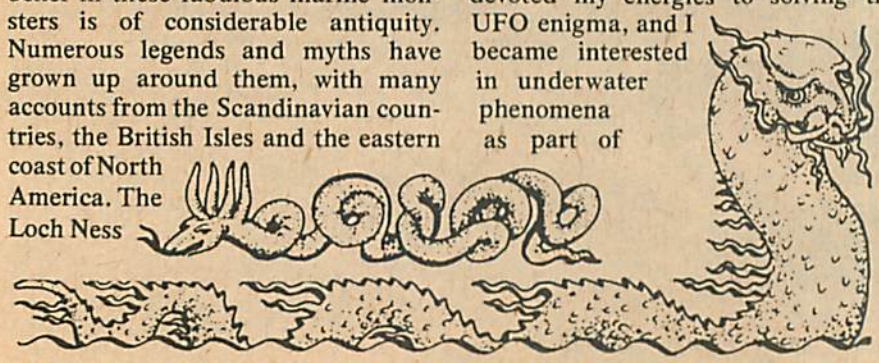
Dennis William Hauck

■The sea. The very word conjures up visions of mysterious lurking shadows in the depths of the unknown! The truth is that our oceans are the last frontier, the area of our planet of which we know the least. Despite the fact that the earth is nearly two-thirds covered by water, we are only just beginning to probe its depths and have virtually no idea what surprises, indeed, what horrors, lie in store for us.

I live just a few hundred feet from the seashore and often on those foggy, lonely nights I ponder what lies in those depths, so well concealed from our everyday world. Sometimes as I walk along the shoreline I'll come across a small sampling of the truly strange creatures that inhabit this twilight world: a clam slowly closes its sturdy shell; a small octopus scurries for cover under some rocks; starfish quietly wait for the tide; and a claw pokes through the sand to reveal the crafty crab in hiding. Nowhere in the world are there such strange creatures. And then I wonder what giant versions of these same creatures populate the depths of the sea, what still undiscovered life flourishes just a few hundred miles off the shore!

Sea serpent literature shows that the belief in these fabulous marine monsters is of considerable antiquity. Numerous legends and myths have grown up around them, with many accounts from the Scandinavian countries, the British Isles and the eastern coast of North America. The Loch Ness monster has received worldwide attention and is probably one or more sea serpents that have been caught in the Scottish lochs. But Nessie is by no means the only specimen! Although few people know it, sea serpents are still being reported on the high seas and are even being captured or washed ashore after they have died. "Cobra Grande" was one such sea serpent that was killed by surveyors in the Upper Rio Negro River in Brazil. The monster was over 130 feet long with a diameter of 3 feet! It had probably come into the river from the sea and was nearly dead by the time the surveyors found it. Other sea monsters have been reported by submarine crews and sailors of the merchant marines. In fact, bodies of sea serpents that have died at sea have washed up on the beaches of several East Coast states, and we will have an exclusive photo on these cases in the next issue! We will also bring you the best on all facets of sea monster evidence, including first-hand reports such as the Mark Daniels article in this issue.

Some of you will know me from my other investigations into the paranormal and the unknown. I have long devoted my energies to solving the UFO enigma, and I became interested in underwater phenomena as part of my investigation of USOs, that is, unidentified submerged objects. These objects have been sighted in conjunction with UFO sightings in many areas of the world, and it now appears that UFOs are as at home in the sky as they are underwater. A study of the connection between UFOs and monster sightings of all types might yield some very surprising results! Incidentally, anyone interested in UFOs (or USOs) might like to write to the International UFO Registry (IUFOR) for more information. The address is: IUFOR, P.O. Box 1004, Hammond, Indiana 46325.

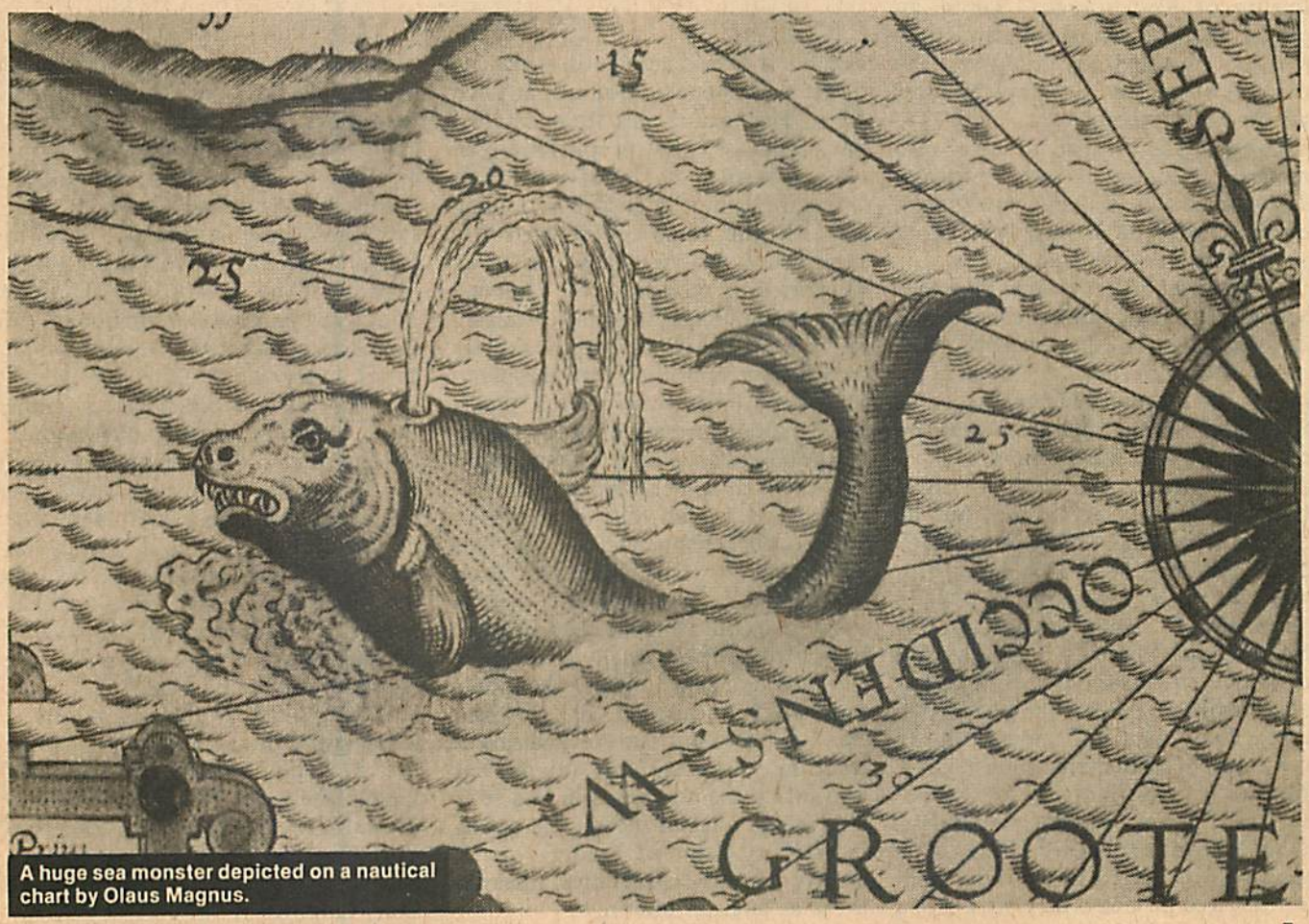


At the same time I should mention one of the best sources of information on sea monsters, and indeed paranormal phenomena of all types, and that is the Sourcebook Project. So far there are eight books in print: **Strange Universe, Strange Artifacts** (2 vols.), **Strange Life, Strange Planet, Strange Phenomena** (2 vols.), and **Strange Minds.** They are essentially reprints of original sources in those fields and are available for $7.95 each from: The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for more information!

Whatever sea monsters are, I believe they are worthy of our serious attention. Actually, anything on the borders of the Unknown is worthy of our serious attention, for it is from the Unknown that we learn! ●

If you have any interesting material on sea monsters that you would like to share with our readers, send it to: Dennis William Hauck, Countrywide Publications, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010. If you wish to submit a manuscript, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for its return.

Sea serpents are always in evidence in the charts of ancient mariners.



A huge sea monster depicted on a nautical chart by Olaus Magnus.

THE Water Monster BOOKSHELF

By George Earley

■Not long after man left dry land and began his explorations of the mysterious oceans, he learned that those who remained on shore were eager for tales of the sea. He soon realized that the better the tale, the better his chances for free food, free grog and the affections of landlocked ladies.

And so rain squalls became fierce storms, manatees became lovely mermaids and tricky currents along rocky coasts became ship-devouring whirlpools.

There were also *monsters!* Glib-tongued seamen told of mile-long beasts that floated half-asleep on the surface for such long times that trees and bushes grew on their backs. Unwary sailors, looking for land to relieve the tedium of long voyages, would go ashore, build cooking fires and then perish. . .dragged screaming into the depths when the sleeping monster awoke and submerged.

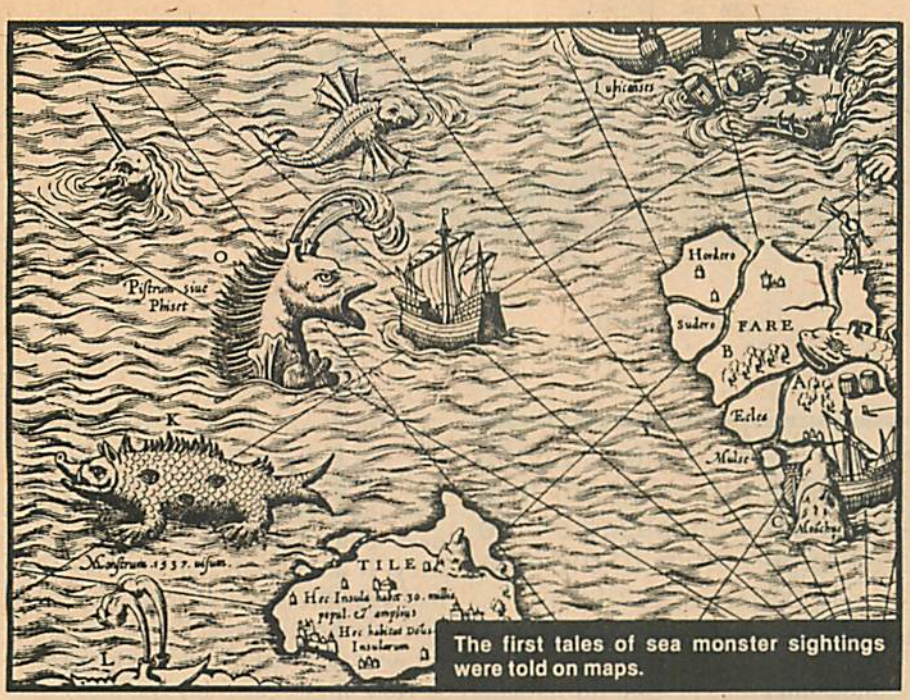
Other lesser monsters were also reported. Enormous sea serpents, snaky tentacled kraken, ocean-going dragons. Some tales even came from in-land waters—rivers and lakes.

Over the years the evidence grew that some of the old tales were true, and eventually much of that evidence found its way into print. Readers interested in this special **Sea Monsters** magazine will undoubtedly want to read more on the topic, hence this column.

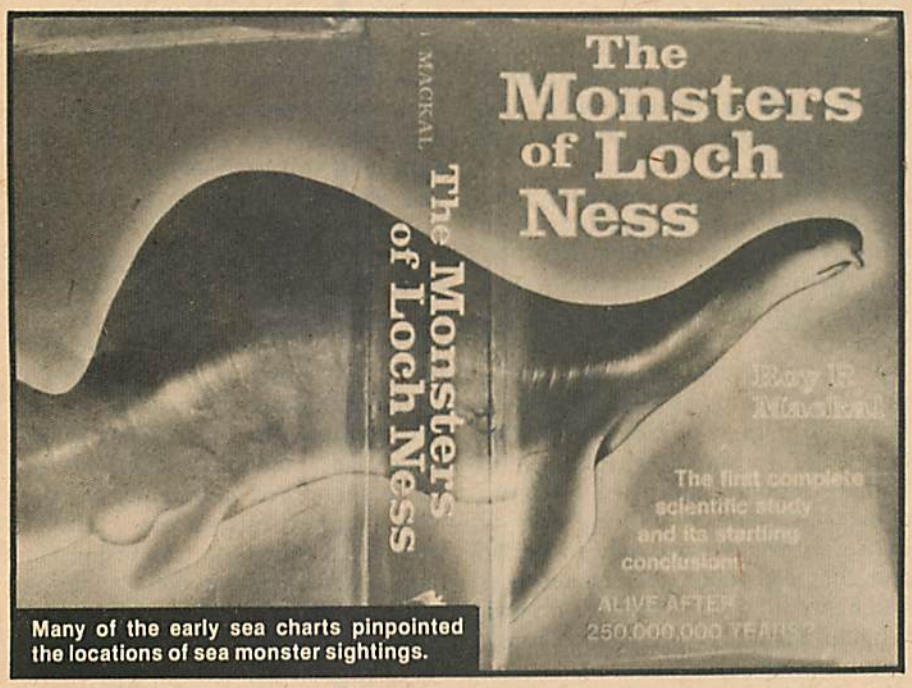
Recent attention to water monsters has been focused not at sea, but on Scotland, and in **The Monsters of Loch Ness** (Swallow Press, Chicago, 1976, 401 pp., illus., appendices; $12.50) University of Chicago biologist Dr. Roy Mackal has produced a superb and definitive study of the investigations into the likelihood that the Loch holds a breeding "herd" of large unknown creatures. We call them "monsters"—Mackal believes that they are "probably descendants of giant amphibians thought to be extinct for 250,000,000 years." His fascinating and well-written account covers every aspect of a decade of investigations (in which he has been personally involved) at Loch Ness. The text ranges from detailed descriptions of what people have seen on the surface to sonar records of "something huge" detected swimming beneath the surface. Included are hard-nosed analyses of a variety of purported photographs of "Nessie" and illustrations of what "Nessie" likely is *not* as well as what the critters may be. In connection with the photo analysis, I might warn readers that a number of pictures used in older books on the doings at Loch Ness do not stand up very well under Mackal's careful scrutiny. I regret this as much as anyone, but we cannot let our wish that something be true blind us from acknowledging what is *really* true. A better book than this one is not likely to be written until we actually catch one of the animals. Unfortunately, the widely publicized Academy of Applied Science/**New York Times** expedition of last summer was unsuccessful; it is not known at present if there will be a 1977 expedition. Lack of success is a strong barrier to continued funding, particularly in such speculative research areas as monster hunting!

Mackal's book, having been published only last year, should be still readily available—the rest of the books I am going to talk about are all older, and one is nearly 20 years old. All, however, are hardcover editions and, save for those published only in England, should be available in better libraries. And a word on libraries might not be amiss at this point. In Connecticut, where I live, we have an InterLibrary Loan program which literally links *all* the libraries in the state, including those in colleges and universities, so that a request at your town library for a book they do not have will trigger a search to see if any other library in the state has it. If they do, you'll get it. Such a system is a boon to the researcher as well as the serious reader. If your state lacks such a system, start bugging your state legislature to create one.

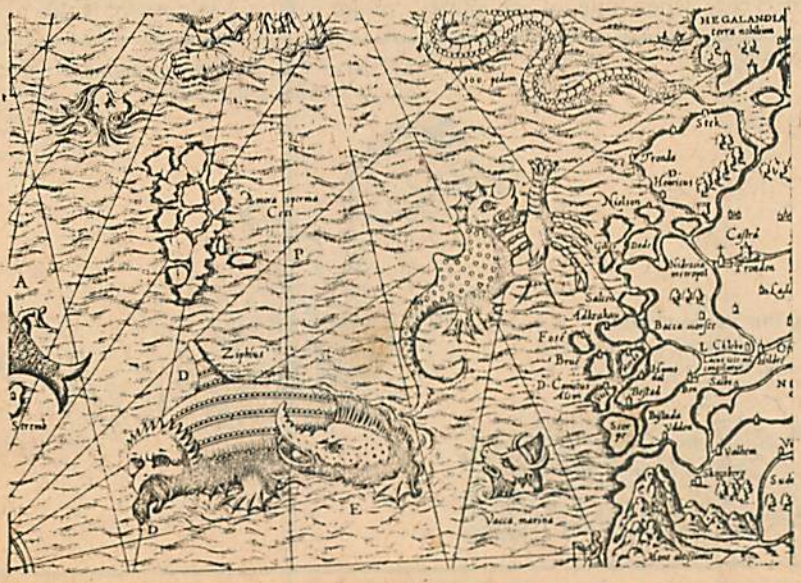
Having begun with lake monsters, let's continue in that vein with a look at two 1974 publications: **In Search of Lake Monsters** by Peter Costello (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, New York City) and **The Loch Ness Story** by Nicholas Witchell (Terence Dalton Ltd., Lavenham, Suffolk, England).



The first tales of sea monster sightings were told on maps.



Many of the early sea charts pinpointed the locations of sea monster sightings.



Costello's book is the first in-depth (no pun intended) look at the subject of monsters in the freshwater lakes of five continents. Loch Ness and other lakes in Scotland and Ireland get the bulk of the play here, comprising nearly half of the book, with the remainder is an examination of North, South and Central American, Asian, European, and African lake monster reports. It is quite clear from the data Mr. Costello has assembled that there are a variety of unknown aquatic animals still existing in a wide variety of locations around the globe. They have been, for the most part, "protected" by the ignorance of experts who choose to believe each other rather than to investigate the reports of local residents. (After all, what do the natives know? Just a bunch of uneducated, superstitious heathens, right?)

There are numerous photographs, some 40 line drawings based on eyewitness reports, tables of sightings and strandings, an extensive bibliography and the complete report of the Royal Air Force examination of Tim Dinsdale's movie of a Loch Ness monster. The RAF concluded that Dinsdale had indeed photographed an "animate" object swimming in the Loch—an object over 25 feet in length. Stubborn indeed will be the skeptic who persists in his non-belief after an objective reading of Costello's fine work.

Where Costello ranged the world, Witchell confined himself to the Loch Ness area, and the strong point in his work is his digging into past history to demonstrate that there is a detailed and internally consistent body of sighting reports going back for many years before the 1933 sighting reports that made "Loch Ness" and "Monster" virtually synonymous. He has a fascinating chapter on land sightings, accounts by folks who claim to have seen the creatures moving about on shore. And in recounting these, he demonstrates pretty conclusively that the reports by the eyewitnesses were straightforward ones and that the wild stories that followed were the fault of the press.

Elsewhere in Scotland there are other water monsters. Loch Morar is the only Loch besides Ness where investigations have taken place; these are recounted in **The Search for Morag** by Elizabeth Montgomery Campbell, which, bless 'em, Walker and Co. (NYC, 1973) reprinted a year after the book's initial appearance in England.

(Continued from page 59)

Sea Monsters Of Antiquity

By Alan Ecurb

■ For over 2500 years sea monsters and sea serpents have been recorded in historical texts and are probably the basis of many ancient myths which certainly go back much farther. One Greek historian who lived around 400 B.C. wrote of numerous sea monsters as seen by him in his travels through the lands of Persia and Egypt. Although most of his writings reflect much objectivity and skepticism, he still seems to think it important to include descriptions of strange sea serpents. He describes the time he made contact with a monster which appeared to be part lion and part fish with only one eye! After this happening he discussed his encounter with the native people of the area and they related stories of monsters being headless and with only one eye positioned in the middle of the chest. There were even stories of men who were part sea serpent and part eagle.

Many of these stories resulted from local myths and legends, and one can see how such things were possible, at least in the eyes of the people during those times, by looking at the writings of a Greek philosopher named Empedocles in 450 B.C. He thought that these monsters were formed when parts of gigantic animals from the sea wandered upon the land until they found compatible parts of the human, thus producing fantastically strange combinations of all kinds. Some of these were sea monsters with human heads, hands or feet and even human bodies with the heads or extremities of a sea monster.

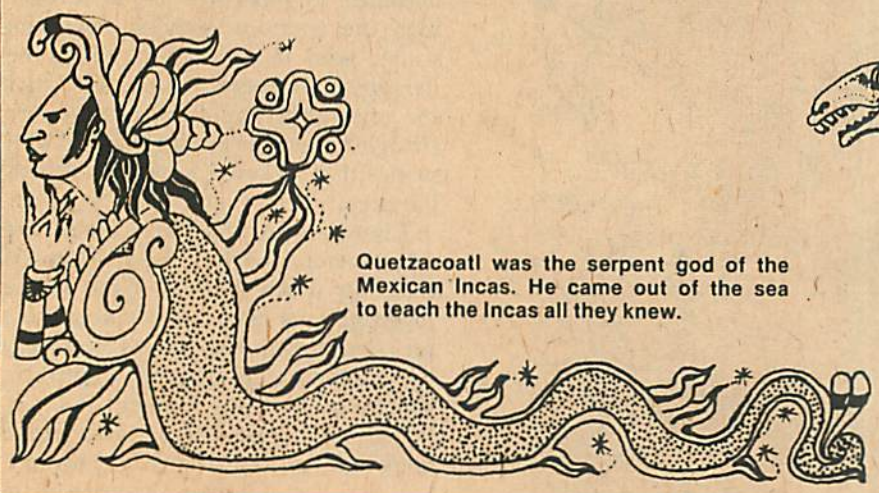
Many of the ancient myths and legends of giant sea monsters were based on the true experiences of the fearless mariners of old!

Greek mythology commonly has some sort of sea serpent included in it, and the people even identified their gods as having an upper body of a human but the lower body of a serpent.

Poseidon was one such Greek god of mythology, who was later labeled by Roman fishermen as Neptune. As the ages went by his name was changed to Father Neptune, and even today we depict this man-god as being ruler of the seven seas. He was said to be the god that controlled the sea serpents and he would call on them for his own vengeful purposes. One such example was during the existence of the ancient city of Troy, when one of its most important waterfronts was destroyed by a sea serpent and it was concluded by the people that the god Neptune had sent the serpent because he had not been paid for building the walls of Troy. It was also thought that Neptune had sent the serpents when the ships and crews of the great Greek fleet were totally destroyed in a strange storm.

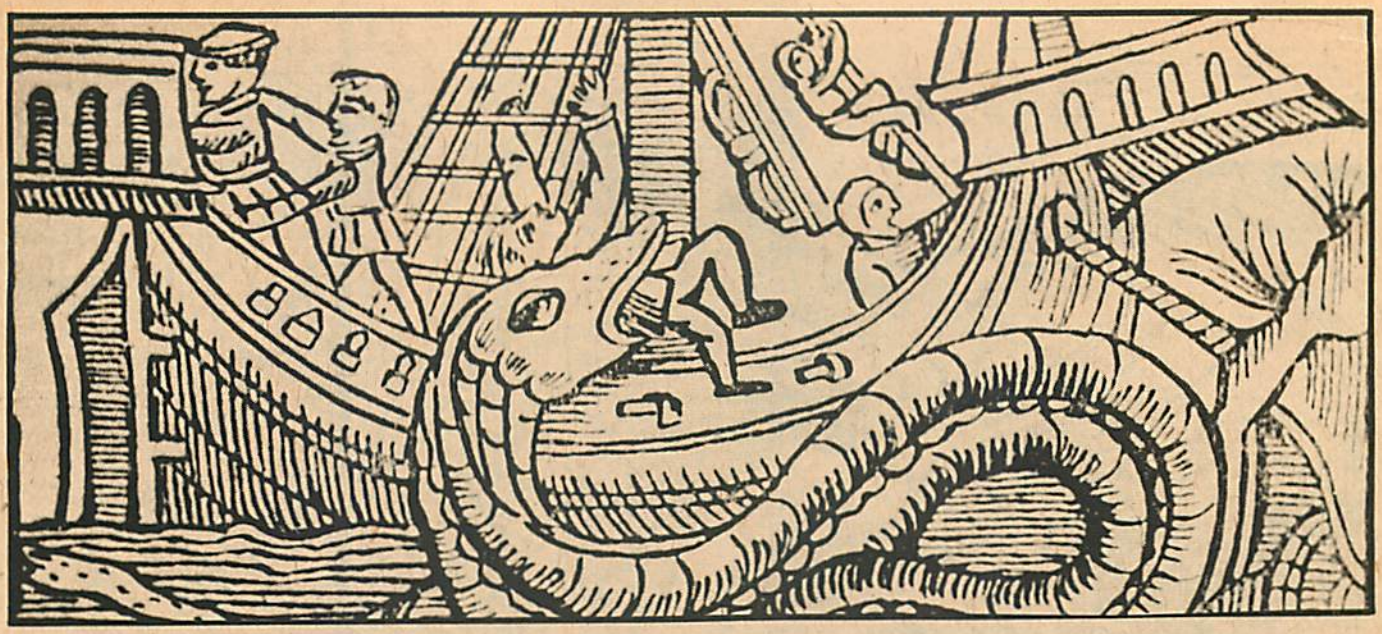
How these early philosophers and people came to the conclusions of how sea serpents were formed and even what their purpose was, seems entirely unrealistic to us now, but the fact of the matter is that sea serpents did really appear in this early period of history and would continue to appear ages later.

One such period was around 400 A.D. when Saint Augustine, leader of the early Christian Church, noted the existence of sea serpents. He believed them to be a product of the devil, just as angels represented the work of God. During these times the fishermen and sailors accepted his conclusions because there were numerous cases in which sea serpents as long as 60 feet would arise from the sea and take to the land on frequent intervals to devour cattle and kill many of the farmers who tried to stop them. It seems that the very fact that Saint Augustine should make such a statement makes one



Quetzacoatl was the serpent god of the Mexican Incas. He came out of the sea to teach the Incas all they knew.

Afrit was the terrible sea monster which plagued the Arabian coast.



Woodcut of sea serpent attacking sailing ship.

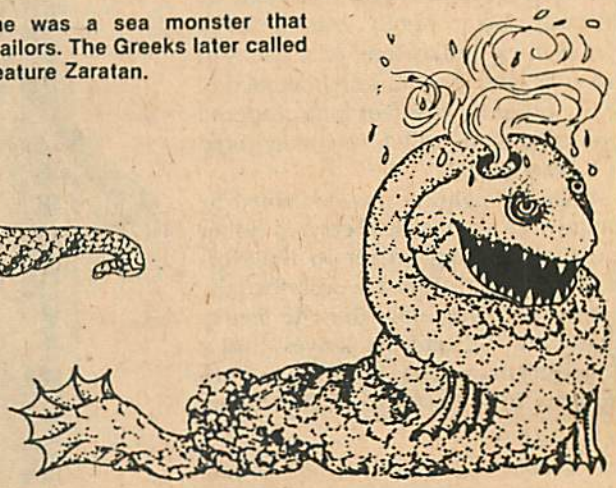
assume that he himself had had some type of contact with a sea serpent. But Saint Augustine was not alone in his belief because it seems that no one culture was exempt from the strange sea monsters. They appeared not only in the Greek culture but also in the Egyptian, Chinese, African, Polynesian and many others.

With time, ships were built better and man himself became more sea worthy. In the early 1300s the seafarer found it necessary to make more direct routes of travel in order to accommodate his growing needs. This meant going far off-shore, something that had not been done previously. But as technology developed, it allowed ships to take on these new endeavors and thus enabled the ships to travel great distances. It would appear at this point that sea serpent sightings would disappear from the eyes of the newly independent sailors, but surprisingly enough, just the opposite occurred. Sea monsters much larger than the ships themselves were now being reported and soon they became the talk of all seamen.

The period from 1400 to 1700 was one of common sightings of serpents even though they were still considered to be fragments of legend. They quickly became the object of hoaxes during this period, just as many other related strange phenomena. In some cases the undersides of large rays would be imprinted with the features of a man and sold as the deceased offspring of a mermaid, which supposedly had some type of magical powers. Another such attempt to capitalize on the legends was an object that was presented as a baby sea serpent, which was actually a frog's head attached to the body of an eel. Even with all of these hoaxes, sea serpent sightings continued. Serpents would be described in various ways, and each with its own individual characteristics.

Some reported sightings that were put down in writing at the time gave some very important descriptions. One such was by Olaus Magnus who in 1555 wrote, "They who, either to trade or to fish, sail along the shores of Norway relate with concurring evidence a truly admirable story, namely that a very large serpent of a length of upwards of 200 feet and 20 feet in diameter lives in rocks and holes near the shores of Bergen; it comes out of its caverns only on summer nights and in fine weather to devour calves, lambs and hogs, or goes into the sea to eat cuttles, lobsters and all kinds of seacrabs. It has a row of hairs two feet in length hanging from the neck, sharp scales of a dark color and brilliant flaming eyes. It attacks boats and snatches away the men, by

Aspidodelone was a sea monster that swallowed sailors. The Greeks later called the same creature Zaratan.



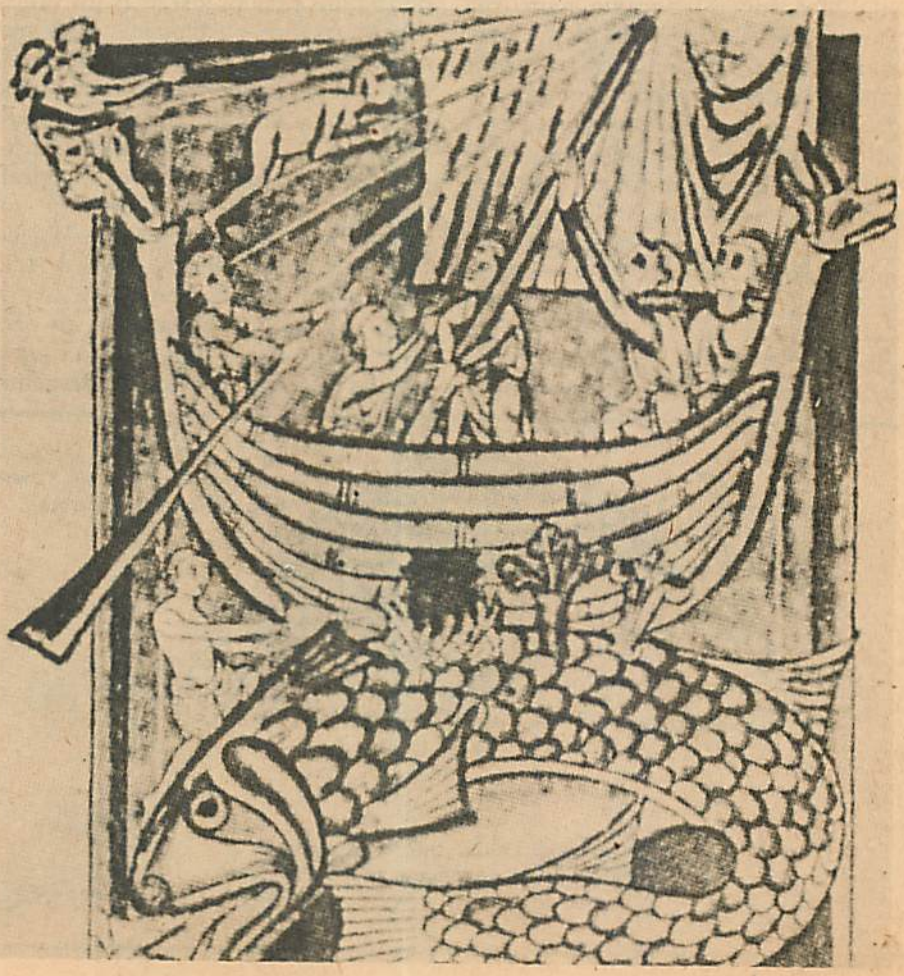
The Greeks called this sea monster a Physter. It caused huge whirlpools as it swam.

Olaus Magns depicted this incident in 1555.

raising itself high out of the water, and devours them."

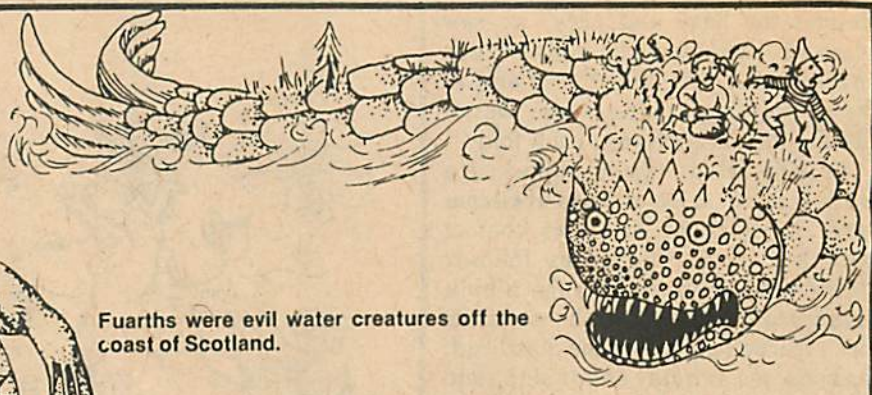
Years later in 1745 a serpent was described by Bishop Pontoppidan which was seen in the same area that Olaus Magnus's serpent was sighted. Bishop Pontoppidan wrote thus: "A fisherman relates to me that, on Sunderland, two miles from Bergen, he once saw a long, large and strange animal so close to his boat that the water, brought in motion by the animal, dashed against it, but immediately it disappeared again under water. The head resembled that of a seal, its skin was also so woolly, but the body was as thick and as long as a yacht of fifty tons, and the tail, which seemed to be about thirty-five feet long, tapered toward the end, which was as pointed as a boat-hook."

A similar sighting was described by Captain Lawrence de Ferry, a sober and high-ranking officer in the Norwegian Navy, in 1746. He described the monster as being more than 45 feet in length and, "It had black eyes and a long white mane that hung down from the neck to the surface of the water.

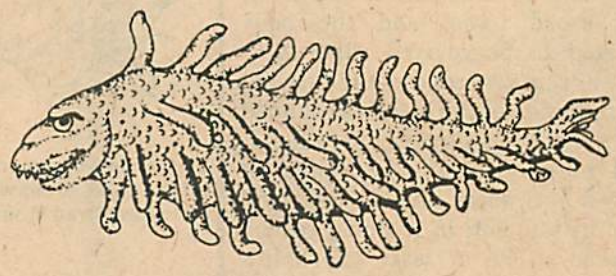


Old woodcutting from twelfth century shows sailors killing sea monster.

This is Zaratan, the huge floating sea monster. It would lie motionless for decades, until unwary sailors awoke it!

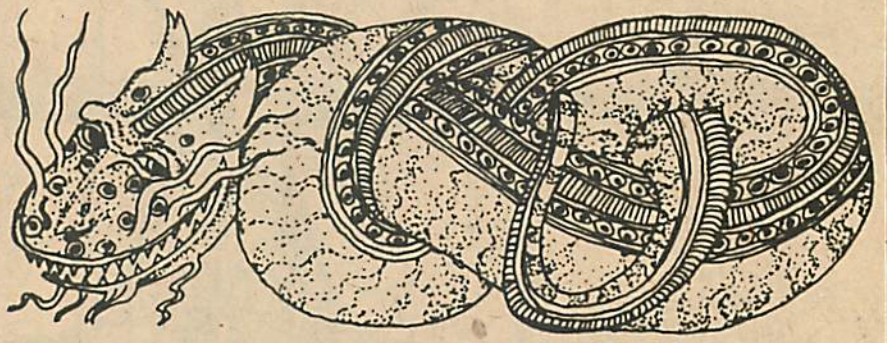


Fuarths were evil water creatures off the coast of Scotland.

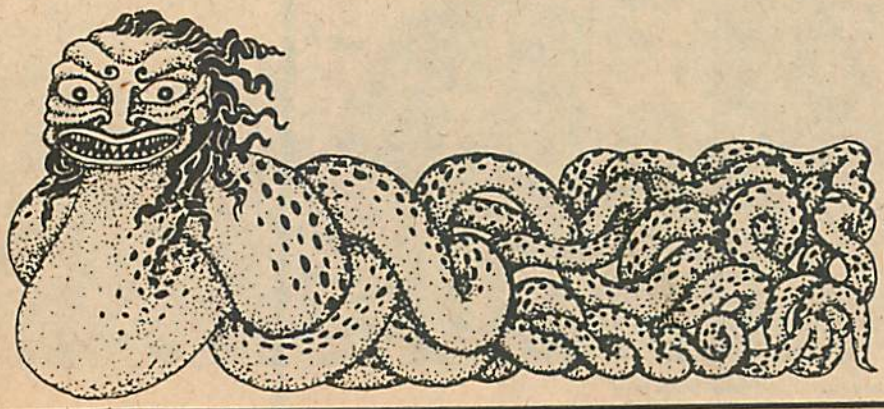


Scolopendra was a huge ocean creature that roamed the world in ancient times.

Krakens were sea monsters which lied in waiting off the Scandinavian coast and "cleaned up" the bodies and debris of shipwrecks.



Leviathan was the primordial water serpent of the Mediterranean Sea. It was supposedly hundreds of miles long!



Tiamat was the angry water serpent of Babylonian mythology.

Besides the head and neck, we saw seven or eight folds or coils of this snake, which were very thick, and as far as we could guess there was a fathom distance between each fold."

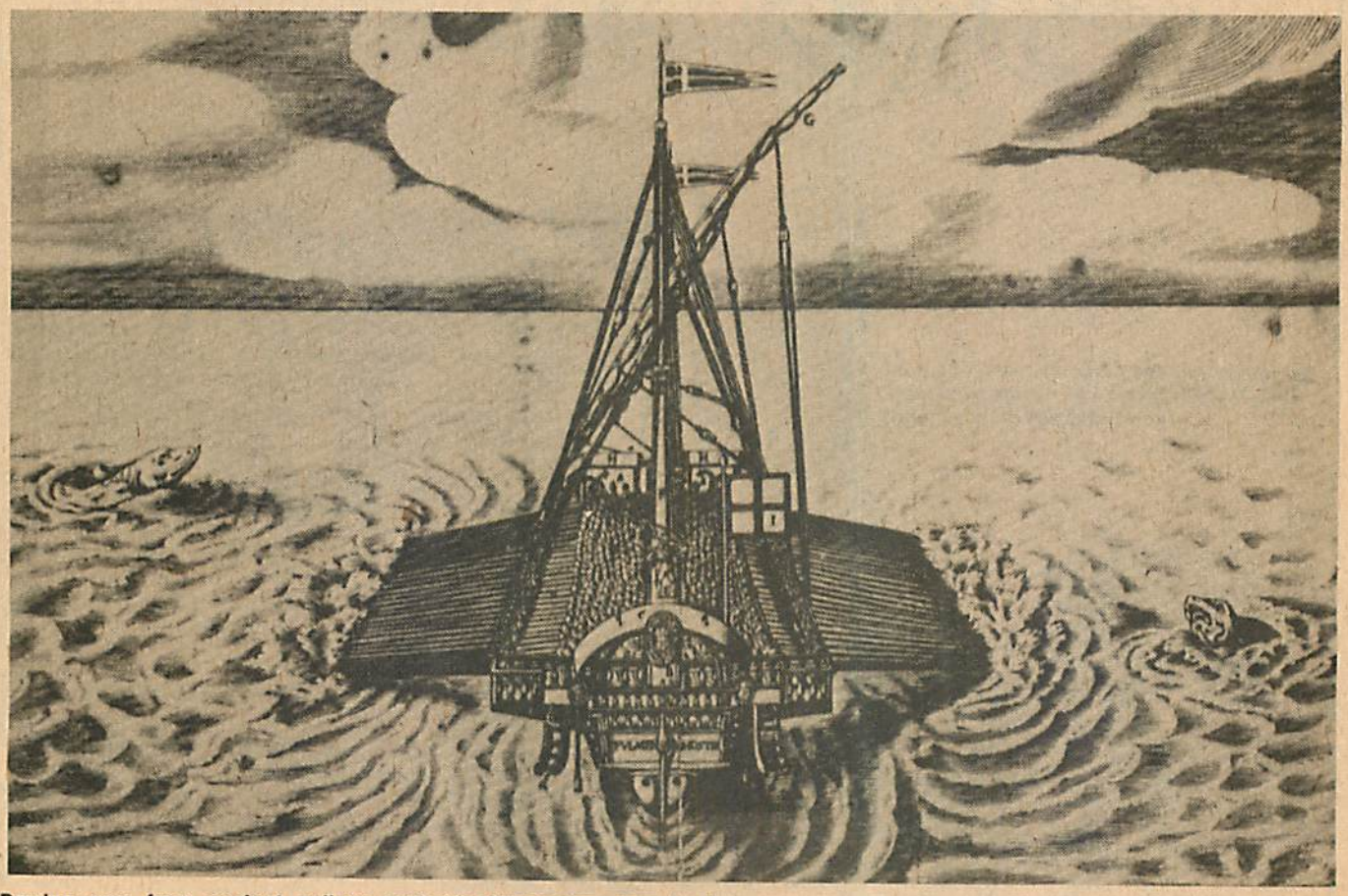
In 1745, Hans Egede published a book entitled **A Description of Greenland**, in which he describes contact with a gigantic serpent as follows: "This monster was of so huge a bulk that when it came out of the water, its head reached as high as the masthead; its body was as bulky as our ship, and of about three or four times our own length. It possessed a long, pointed snout and spouted like a whalefish; great broad paws, and the body appeared to be covered with shellwork, its skin very rugged and uneven. The underside of the body was shaped like an enormous serpent, and when it dived to go beneath the water, it plunged backwards into the Sea and raised its tail aloft in so doing, which appeared to be at least one ship's length in distance from the more bulky part of the body."

Vodyanye were treacherous sea monsters off the coast of Norway. They were supposed to have lived thousands of years.

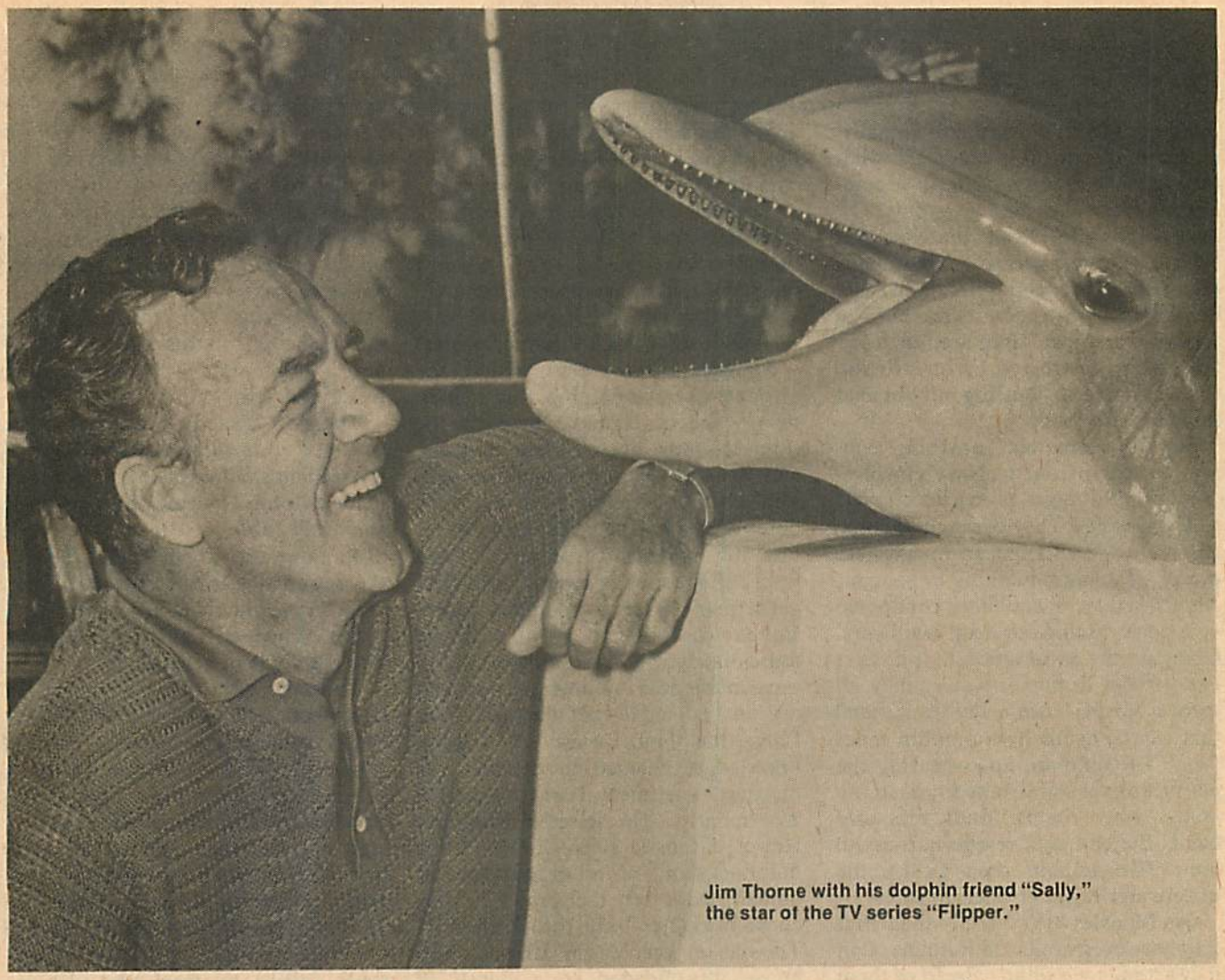
One final sighting as described by Knud Leems in 1765 in his book *Beskrivelse over Finmarkens Lappen* went as follows: "The Finmark Sea also produces the hydra or sea serpent, a huge monster, forty, 'passus' long (200 feet), with a head resembling in size that of large sea fishes, in shape that of a snake. This beast has a neck with a mane like a horse's, a grey back and whitish belly. In the dog days, when the sea is free from wind, the sea serpent will come to the surface, bend itself in several coils, of which some are partially visible above the water, whilst others remain hidden under it. The seamen greatly fear this monster, and they do not trust themselves on the sea, when the animal is on the surface."

Many other sightings that were written down during this period related to similar happenings, some being destructive and some only amounting to visual contact. But the descriptions of the monsters were of varying features, such as having tentacles like that of an octopus and the body of a whale, or a large snake-like body with fins and strange killing power like that of an electrical charge.

All of these reported sea serpent sightings are most likely exaggerated due to the ignorance and fear of the people during those times, but even in disregarding some of the more unbelievable parts of the stories, there still exists the fact that some type of creature of great size did very well exist during these early ages, thus producing all the legends and stories that have been passed down from mythology through the 18th century. ●



Rowing oars from ancient galleys probably attracted sea monsters!



Jim Thorne with his dolphin friend "Sally," the star of the TV series "Flipper."

INTERVIEW: Jim Thorne Oceanographer

Jim Thorne is one of the most respected oceanographers in the world. As the discoverer of the underwater city of Emborium, he brought back the oldest marine artifacts ever discovered. Here he discusses his views on intelligent marine life, Atlantis, the Bermuda Triangle, and his future projects underwater.

Interviewed by Timothy Green Beckley

Sea Monsters: Is it true that you consider the work you've done with dolphins to be among the most rewarding aspects of your extensive career in oceanography, and as an adventurer.

Thorne: Definitely. Dolphins have taught me some really incredible things. Did you know, for instance, that they have a brain which is wholly convoluted, indicating great thought process? In fact, their thinking mechanism weighs three-and-three-quarter pounds. Our brain—that of a human—is only three pounds, so we are already behind them in this area by three-quarters of a pound. I think it's utterly fascinating that the chimpanzee has one-quarter of *one* pound of cranium. This puts him way down at the bottom of the intelligence scale and yet they, among all of the primates, are said to be the smartest.

Sea Monsters: Isn't it true that the United States government is financing experiments with these creatures of the sea?

Thorne: Quite correct. But actually, for the most part, it is really sad what they have been attempting to accomplish in these classified programs. Off the coast of San Diego, the Navy has been involved in a series of experiments designed to teach dolphins how to carry bombs and attach them to the hulls of foreign warships. They are, in addition, being instructed in how to kill enemy frogmen by butting into them at tremendous speed.

Sea Monsters: Has anything constructive come from the Navy's involvement with this breed of marine animal?

Thorne: Yes! They've taught them to eliminate sharks from an area where divers are doing something important. Also, several tests have been conducted with dolphins and our deep-sea divers. Going on the assumption that a diver can get lost in murky water, they all carry a buzzer which energizes a signal that can be heard by a dolphin miles away. The dolphin, upon hearing the alarm, streaks toward the frogman, no matter where he is, finds him and hands the end of a rescue harness to him. The dolphin then guides the underwater explorer back to safety.

Sea Monsters: You imply then that they have eyes similar to humans. Can they actually see what's ahead of them in the water?

Thorne: Dolphins can see very well. They send out a highly developed sonar beam which hits an object, and then bounces back to their echo-and-recognition mechanism. If it is a large object in the water in front of them they broaden the sonar beam. If it is a small object they narrow the sonar beam so that it fits the confirmation of the object. They can literally see it, exactly the way we can. As humans, on the surface, we can see almost everything. We see color and design. We see in great detail. Underwater, we are virtually blind, unless we are wearing a face mask that creates a gap between the eyeball and the water. This enables us to see with greater clarity. Without it blackness prevails all around us. A dolphin can see with his built-in sonar, in completely opaque water, or can lift its head if it wants to and see just as well with its eyes. In actuality, their powers of vision are utterly incredible. They have the ability to see ahead of them, in back of them, on both sides, as well as up and down.

SeaMonsters: What do you think of the research that John C. Lilly has conducted over the past few years?

Thorne: His experiment with a female scientist and a full-grown male dolphin was one of the greatest scientific achievements of all time.

Sea Monsters: What precisely were the end results of Lilly's experiments?

Thorne: If we are to achieve the ultimate as far as dolphins and human beings are concerned, obviously the thing we must do is to communicate with each other. Surprisingly enough, we have not attempted to learn the dolphin's language because it is probably more acute than ours. Where it very often takes us several minutes to get a point across, a dolphin understands what is said to him almost immediately. So, if we are looking to excel in this area, we must get man and mammal talking to each other. Dr. John Lilly, the high priest of dolphin knowledge, decided to conduct the ultimate experiment. It was to go on for 2½ months. He selected Margaret Howe, a female scientist who loved dolphins, and a full-grown dolphin named Peter for the project. They chose an idyllic villa on the island of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. The house was flooded to a depth of twenty-two inches, which enabled Peter to swim comfortably while Margaret could wade through the same waters, slightly above her knee-caps.

The idea was for her to conduct herself exactly the way any normal person would conduct herself around the house—answering the telephone, listening to the radio, writing reports, watching television, cooking and serving meals. She slept on a special hammock suspended above the water.

Sea Monsters: In other words, a human being—in this case a woman—and a sea mammal shared the same living quarters?

Thorne: Exactly. Margaret was followed every second of every day by the gliding shadow of this fully grown male dolphin. During the first week she was able to teach Peter to pronounce the word "ball." Shortly thereafter he was able to count—one, two, three, four, five and so on.

Sea Monsters: Can dolphins immitate the voice of a person?

Thorne: The dolphin's phonetic equipment is not really right for human speech. They talk with a series of squeaks or clicks. They have quite a "vocal" range, and I would guess that they have a full octave which would be eight notes in range, and the more they learn to control it, the better they can speak. Peter, by the end of the third week, was speaking so that he could be understood, and they did many electronic graphs to show how close to human speech his voice pattern was.

But what was really surprising is that simultaneous with the learning process, something else took place the first week: he explored Margaret's ankles. He would hold her ankle, nip it, but very gently, not enough to draw blood. In no way was he being brutish. The second week Peter began to make a more personal inspection of her personal self—legs, thighs, calves—and he would have probably gone a little bit farther but he couldn't get out of the water.

Sea monsters: What was Margaret's reaction to this strange form of affection?

Thorne: She was very fond of Peter, but by the fourth week Margaret began to miss human companionship. Peter, by the same token, was becoming more obstreperous, and he decided that he was going to try to learn more and play less. In other words, he was trying to attract her attention. During the fifth week, it happened. Peter fell irrevocably, totally, madly in love with his teacher, to a point where he had very

severe erections.

SeaMonsters: How was the situation handled?

Thorne: The only way they could go on with any of the learning programs was to take Peter away from Miss Howe for two days and put him in a playpen with two female dolphins named Sissy and Pam. When he reported back for learning, he was somewhat depleted, but once again very willing to be taught. But by this time there was mutual affection between the two "people," and by the end of 2½ months, Margaret was quite entranced with Peter, and he of course would do anything for her. After this point was reached, Peter was let go, and he disappeared into the blue-green water of the Virgin Islands. One can't help but wonder what happened to him. Did he go back to his race and try to teach them this new humanoid language?

SeaMonsters: Are dolphins the most highly evolved creatures on this planet next to man?

Thorne? I would think so. Their intelligence is not to be surpassed. They've been able to do so many things that one suspected they could not do. The marvelous part of a dolphin is that when you, for example, teach them a word or a letter, they will catch onto the trick and improve on it just as quickly as you teach them. So a dolphin can learn a highly complicated maneuver, like being asked to go to the surface and come back for a certain tool. They have proven to be highly successful at obeying commands. In fact, they can be taught verbally the names of all the tools and you could tell them to go and bring you a Phillips screwdriver or a wrench and they would bring back the right tool. They also have been trained to deliver mail to the underwater habitats of our aquanauts during various underwater experiments. This is just the beginning. They are simply marvelous creatures. They do have temperaments different from one another—some are more temperamental, some are more paternal. As a whole, they have learned to get along perfectly. For this reason, if for no other, they should be studied and their sociological structure noted in detail.

Sea Monsters: As a man who has spent an awful lot of time at sea, have you ever thought about the many strange, unexplained disappearances of both large and small vessels? There have been so many ships that have vanished into thin air since the beginning of recorded navigational history.

Jim Thorne inspects an ancient sacrificial bowl brought up from the underwater city of Emborium, which dates back to 4000 B.C!

Thorne: You can hardly avoid coming in contact with all sorts of stories. Doubtless, there is a logical explanation for a sizable percentage of the disapperances which have occurred over the centuries. The most famous area, as you know, is the Bermuda Triangle or "Hoodoo Sea," which covers more than 1000 square miles encompassing Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, The Azores, and hundreds of small islands.

SeaMonsters: This is the area where, in 1945, seven TBF torpedo bombers took off from a base in southern Florida on a routine reconnaissance flight, never to be seen again?

Thorne: That's right. I must confess I started out being a skeptic as far as the Triangle was concerned. After all, I had been in and out of there myself for 20 years and never encountered any problem. It was while I was writing the introduction to a paperback—**Limbo of the Lost**—on the subject, that I began to alter my feelings. I discovered that over 1000 people and some 100 planes and ships had vanished without a single trace. It's uncanny. It really is.

Sea Monsters: What do you think happened to them—is there a logical, scientific explanation?

Thorne: One extremely good possibility is that a seismic wave, 100 feet high, might have caused some of the ships—even the larger ones—to sink to the bottom. Or, perhaps, these unlucky crafts came upon a "vortex" in the atmosphere which could easily have scattered debris over large areas, providing no clue to the destruction of vessels which were within the Bermuda Triangle. Of course another theory is that space ships come down periodically and survivors of the wrecks are kidnapped by aliens from outer space.

Sea Monsters: Do you give credence to this theory?

Thorne: A few months ago I would have thought anyone crazy who suggested the theory that the ships had been taken aboard a giant mother ship from another planet. Now, I just can't totally rule this out. Not too long ago, newspapers were filled with flying saucer stories. It was said that two Mississippi fishermen were taken aboard a UFO and given a physical examination by the craft's occupants before being returned to earth. Per-

(Continued from page 60)

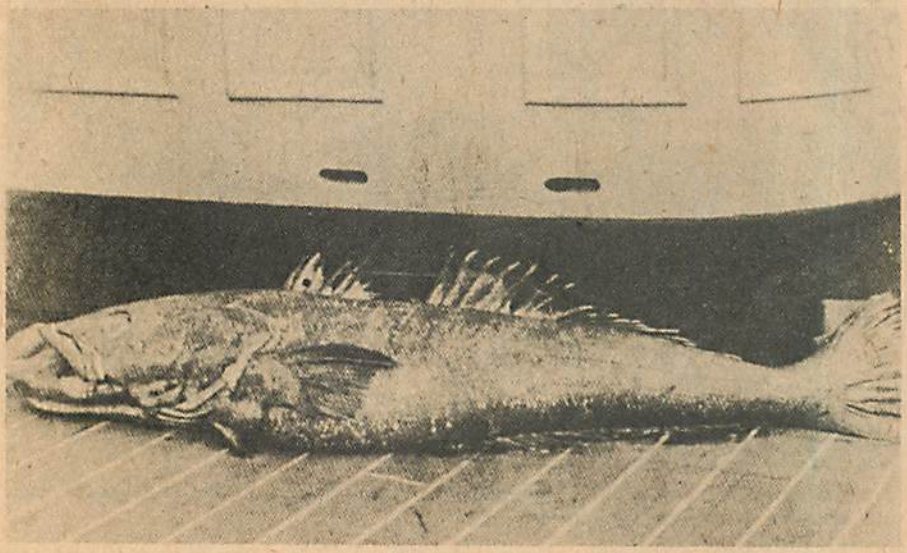
SEA SERPENTS In Scientific Literature At The Turn Of The Century

By Michael Cohen

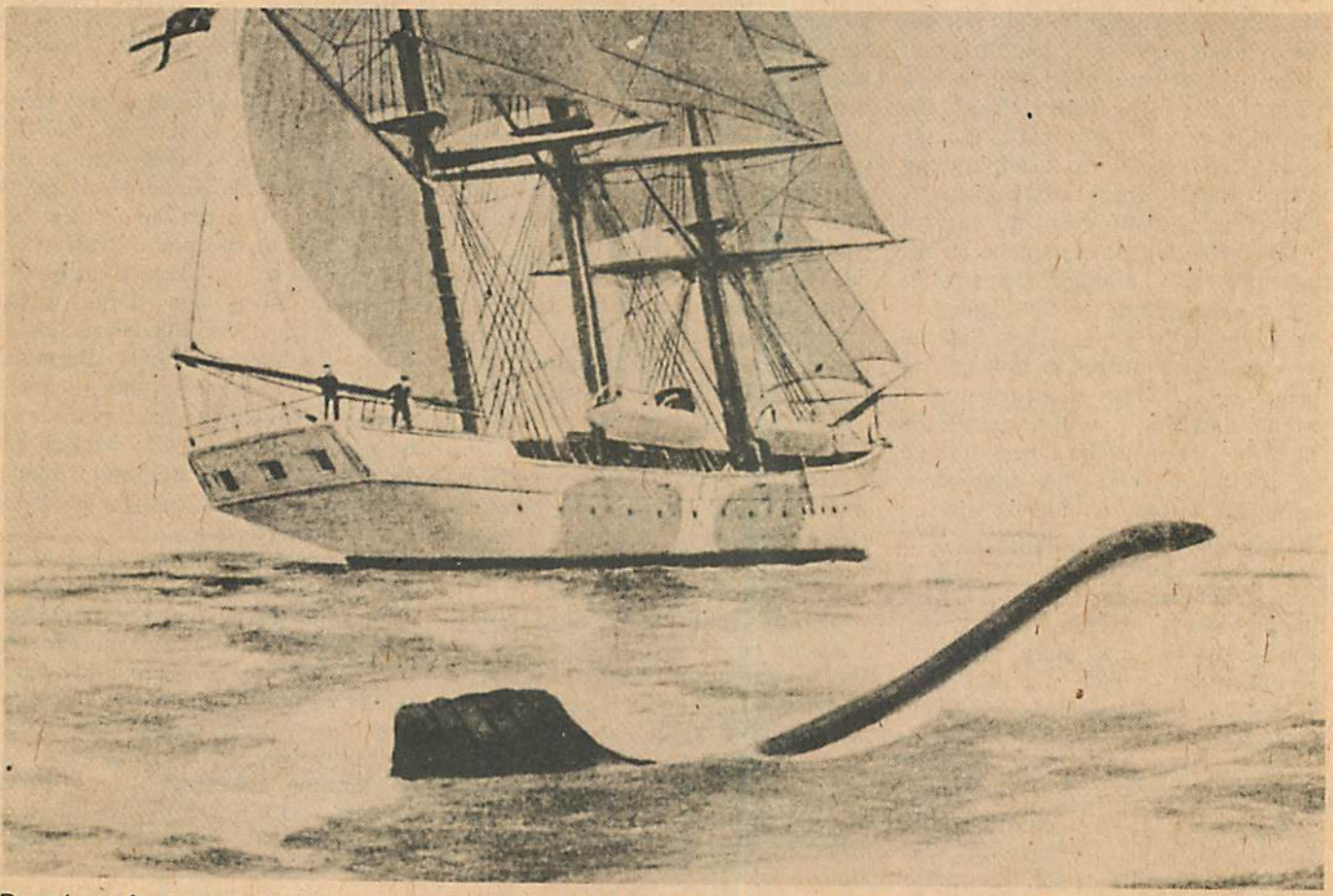
Scientists in the early 1900s took sea serpents seriously and even worked up a composite description of what the monsters looked like!

■Today, the scientific establishment has not accepted the existence of sea serpents. Although there is a tremendous amount of evidence dating back thousands of years proving that these strange creatures exist, the scientists insist that this evidence does not prove that such animals are alive and thriving in the oceans and fresh water lakes all over the world.

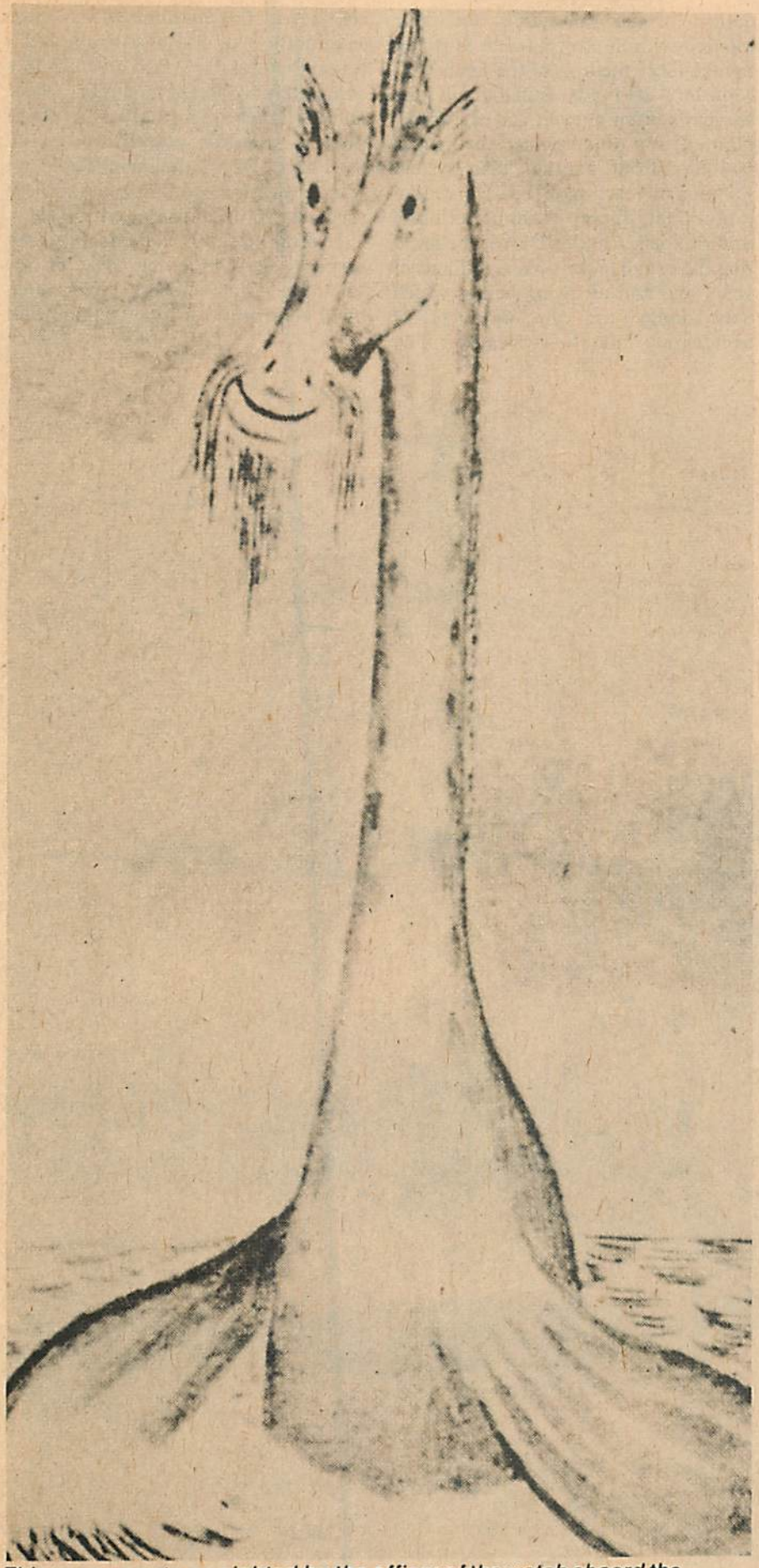
The basic attitude of the scientists towards sea serpents indicates that they are trying to hide the truth about this controversial subject from the general public. The famous Loch Ness Monster in Scotland has been observed by thousands of people, the animal's image has been recorded on hundreds of photographs and several reels of movie film, and sonar devices have detected it moving below the surface of the water. During the 1920s and 1930s



The scientific research vessel Albatross dredged this prehistoric fish from a depth of 6000 feet in 1888.



*Drawing of sea monster based on eyewitness sketch from aboard the **Valhalla** in 1905.*



This sea serpent was sighted by the officer of the watch aboard the ***Corinthian*** *on August 30, 1913, and drawing appeared in the* ***Illustrated London News.***

Page from a book on sea serpents showing serpent observed by naturalist Hans Egede.

Copy of a sketch by Henry Lee, naturalist in charge of the Brighton Aquarium, of a giant squid seen by sailors crossing the Atlantic.

Scientists stand in jaws of shark-like creature which must have been at least as large as the modern sperm whale.

the bodies of several sea serpents were washed ashore in England and Australia. Pictures of these dead animals appeared in newspapers all over the world. In spite of this incredible evidence, the scientists still refuse to accept the reality of these unusual animals.

One possible reason why the scientists fear the existence of sea serpents is that the truth about these creatures could hurt their jobs. These professional people receive very high salaries and they also have access to billions of dollars of our tax money for their idiotic research projects such as trying to take more pictures of the Loch Ness Monster. If these animals are the survivors of an ancient age or, worse, planted on this planet by space travelers from another star system millions of years ago, then Darwinian evolutionary theory could be seriously undermined. Charles Darwin believed that life began in the oceans millions of years ago and all living beings which exist today are the products of accidental mutations caused by changes in the environment. A close examination of these animals could reveal that life developed on earth in a completely different manner. Since Darwin's theories form the basis of the present scientific establishment and the Ph.D. system, the scientists do not want anything, including reports of sea serpents, to upset the present system.

In order to suppress the fact that sea serpents exist, the members of the scientific establishment have developed an attitude of total contempt for

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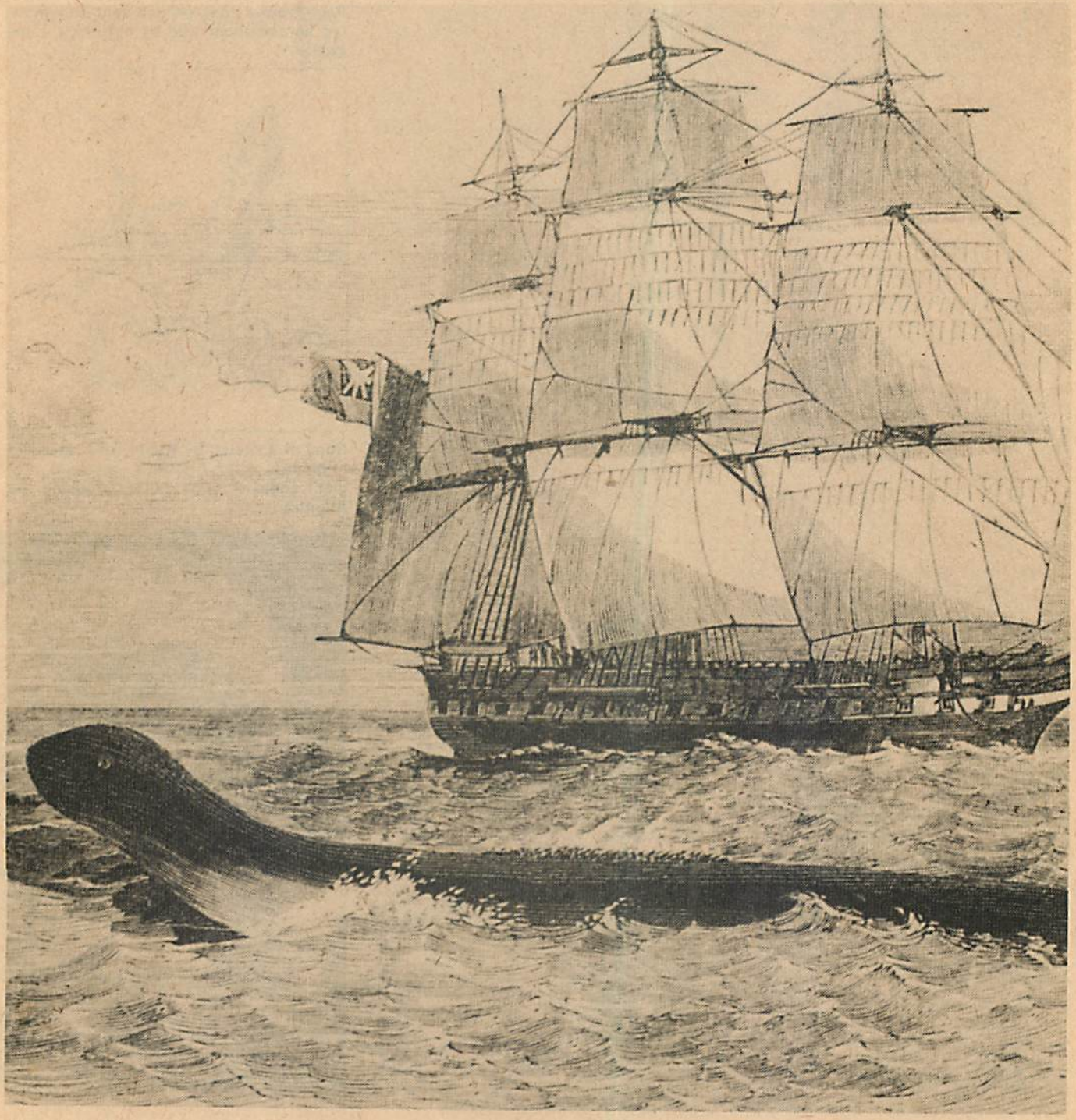
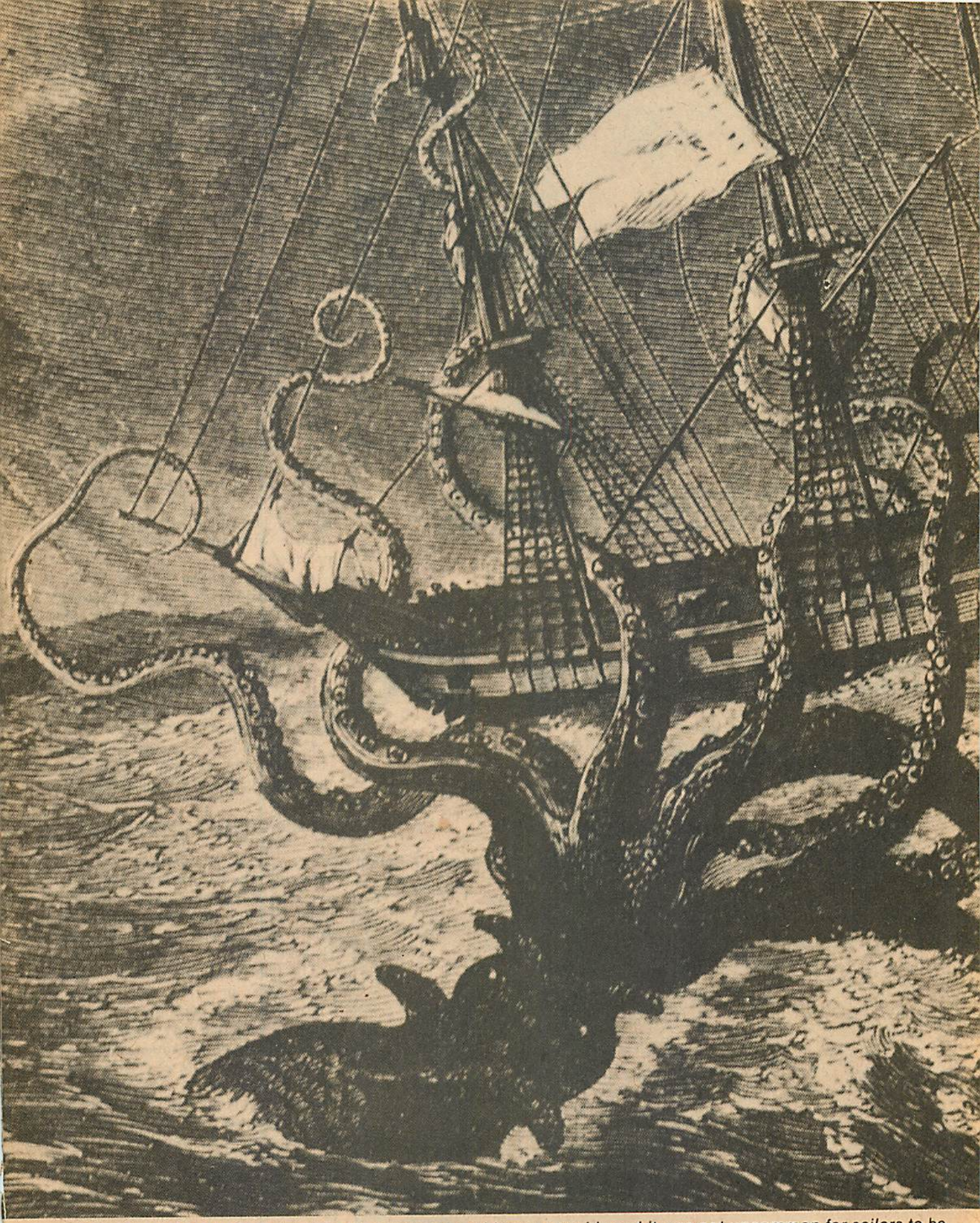


The sighting from the H.M.S. Daedalus was widely reported in the scientific literature of the nineteenth century.



Countless ships became victims of monstrous and hungry squids and it was not uncommon for sailors to be dragged off the decks of their ships by these voracious demons.

A painting of a lake monster similar to the one reported in the St. John's River in Florida.

Mysterious Water Monsters Of North America

By Harold D. Salkin

In many of the thousands of picturesque lakes in North America, there dwell strange creatures lurking in their tranquil depths!

■ Most readers are familiar with the Loch Ness Monster and the many other verifiable observations of sea serpents made down through the ages. However, it may come as a surprise to learn that it isn't especially necessary to consult historical texts or travel half-way around the world in order to encounter bizarre denizens of the deep. For right here, in North America, there are any number of rivers and lakes which serve as a natural habitat for all kinds of weird water dwellers.

In recent years strange serpent-like marine life has been sighted in at least a half-dozen states, and in Canada. f course, attempts have been made to identify them as known species, but in almost all instances they go totally unexplained, thus providing science with yet another puzzle to ponder.

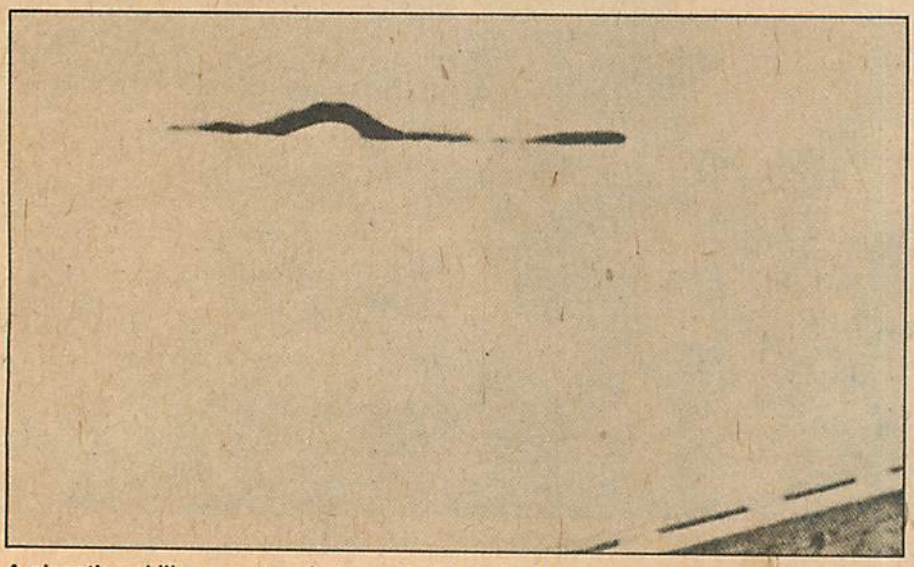
A comprehensive survey of the numerous reported sightings makes it easy to see that there are a respectable assortment—a very nice variety—of creatures to contend with. The descriptions vary from that of a "giant snake with a sleek body thirty feet long" to a "camel, complete with three humps and a shell-like covering."

Let's take a look at some of these creatures, and try and determine if they are worthy of serious consideration.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MONSTER

Up in the picturesque state of Vermont, where the summers are mild and serene and the winters harsh and bitter cold, resides a sea serpent that is said to be every bit as big as the Loch Ness Monster.

The Lake Champlain monster was first seen in 1609 by Samuel Champlain, the legendary explorer who discovered the body of water which covers an area of 430 square miles and which borders on the western portion of New York State. According to experts, during prehistoric times Lake Champlain, as well as the nearby Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers, was an arm of the sea, and small prehistoric life forms are often found in their waters to this day. The theory is that perhaps the monster came from the sea centuries ago and became trapped in the lake where it now lives.



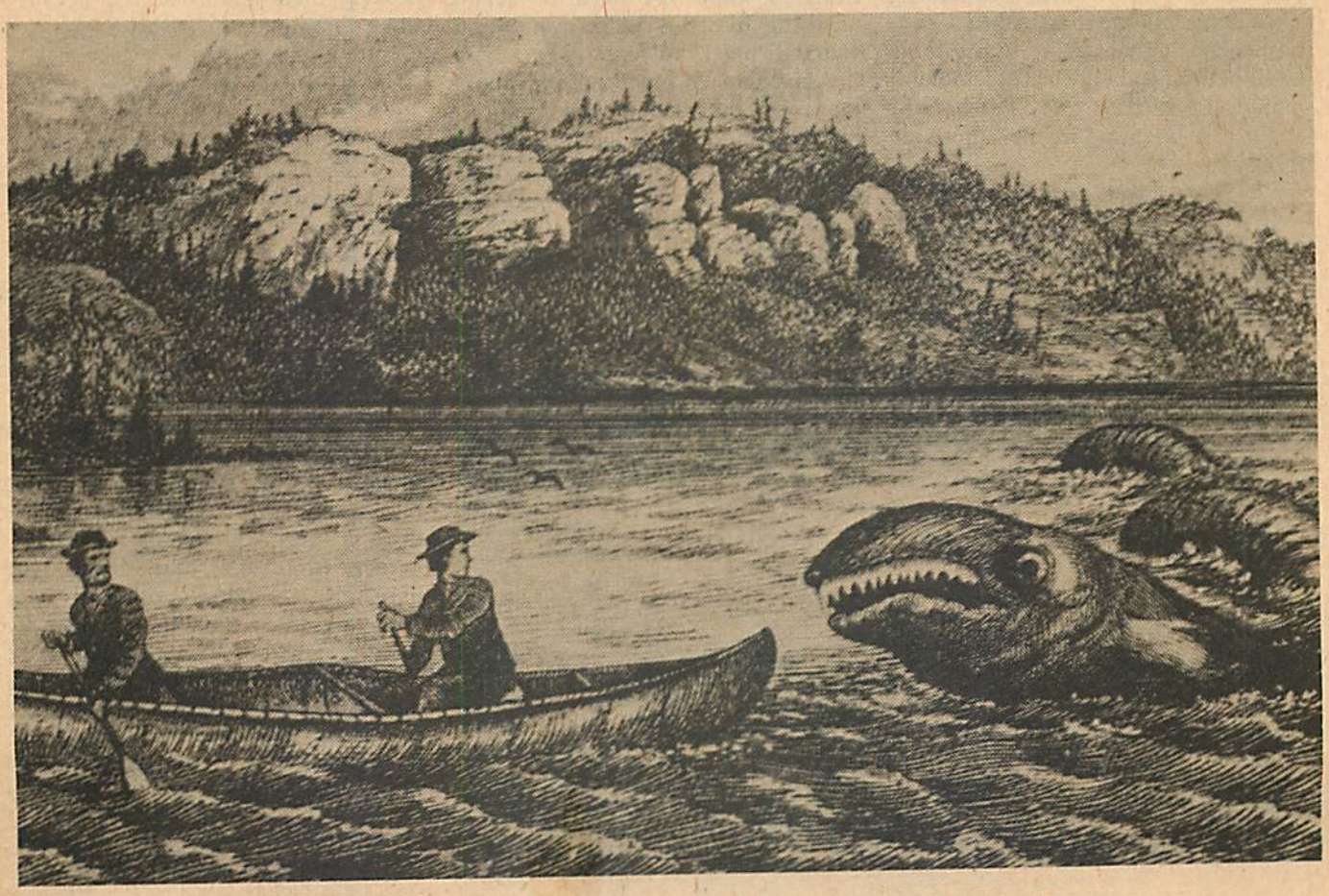
A gigantic eel-like monster photographed in Lake Manitoba in 1962.

Eel-like and of gigantic proportions, the creature was seen by many of the original settlers while migrating to the region. And while the early newspaper accounts of the early 1800s were mostly written tongue-in-cheek, many residents near Barbers Point (where the creature was most frequently sighted) refused to scoff. For here, several boat-loads of people were said to have watched the creature flipping its head in and out of the water.

Among the credible witnesses of this by-gone period were various law enforcement officials. In 1883, for example, Sheriff N.H. Mooney of Clinton County spotted the creature near Cumberland Point. Previous to his own sighting Sheriff Mooney had admitted being a hard-nosed skeptic, but once he saw it with his own eyes, his attitude changed drastically. "Nobody can convince me this thing isn't for real," he proclaimed. "I watched it gliding through the water for upwards of five minutes. It was tremendous—like no other sea creature I know of!"

Speculation that the creature may be nothing more than an oversized sturgeon or a gigantic crab seems ludicrous after hearing from those who have seen it close up.

The beast of Lafayette Lake in California could be a gigantic alligator similar to this one caught in Arkansas in 1928.



Drawing of monster sighted in Lake Utopia, New Brunswick, Canada, is like the creatures seen in Lake Huron.

This humped snake-like creature was estimated to be over 80 feet long when it was photographed in 1955. It is very similar to descriptions of the Lake Huron monster.

One of the distinguishing features of the monster is its head, which one magazine editor described as being "large and whitish, and round like a beach ball."

Walter Head of the prestigious **Vermont Life** was vacationing with his wife near Appletree Point, north of Burlington (Vermon't largest city) on Labor Day, 1962, when they spotted the unlikely swimmer through binoculars. "We both saw the head going against the wind at a pretty good clip," the witnesses reported. "I mean, it defies any explanation that I can think of. My wife thought she saw its body above the water in two or three coils. Then, it moved away rather rapidly into the lake. It had a head that was round—I'd compare it to a beach ball—and whitish. No doubt, a lot of other people have seen it but are afraid to talk about it for one reason or another. They evidently don't want to be ridiculed, and so they keep their sightings to themselves."

Another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Patch of Hardwick, Vermont, were eating a picnic lunch near Alburg when something, "that looked like a tremendously long snake, quite large in the body and about thirty feet long," reared out of the water. Patch talks about his sighting in no uncertain terms:

"By Judas priest! I saw the thing. We were picnicking on the western shore off the Champlain Islands when the creature appeared. It was definitely snake-like in form. We could see three or four humps in the air, but they were vertical—and not lying horizontally along the water like a snake would. It was right there on top of the water, just enjoying a swim. First, it would lift its head out of the water a couple of feet, then continue on its leisurely way. Finally, it turned and started working back toward the area from which it came. I know it's hard to believe anything like this unless you see it yourself, but I did!"

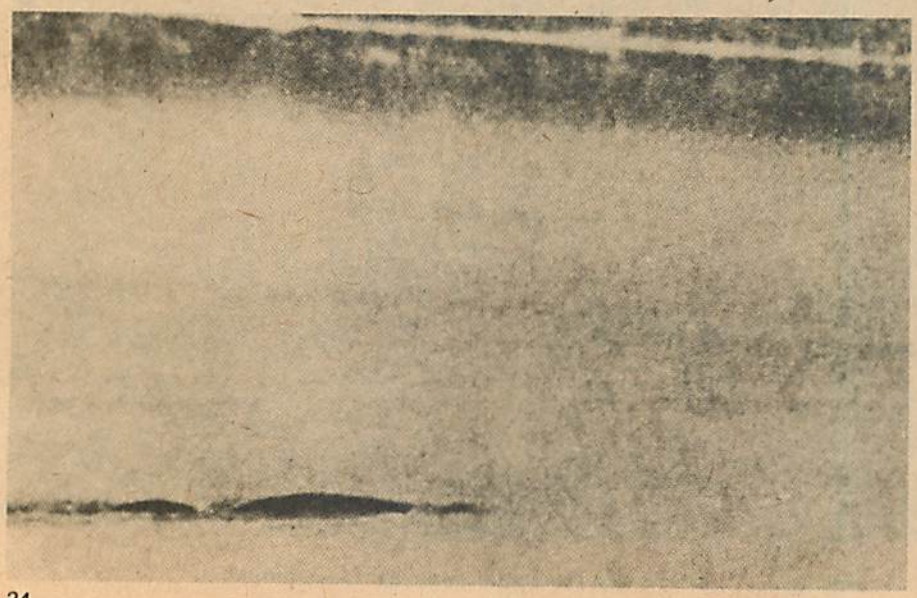
As far-fetched as some of the reports may seem, they are not being dismissed out of hand by experts such as Professor Milton Potash of the University of Vermont. The noted zoologist admits that it is impossible for him to identify the creature, and therefore he is keeping on open mind. "In light of the responsible reports, I don't think you can brush these things off. However, since Lake Champlain is so large and is irregularly shaped and very deep, the use of sonar and other sophisticated scientific equipment to hunt the monster seems unlikely. Until we have some evidence, I'm going to remain on neutral ground. But quite obviously, there never will be evidence proving their non-existance, because Lake Champlain is so vast."

Sightings persist!

THE McCALL MONSTER

Jumping half-way across the U.S., to the state of Idaho, we find a friendly sea serpent nicknamed *Sharlie*. The creature, which has been seen for more than fifty years in McCall's Payette Lake, is considered to be harmless and shy. For although there was a rash of sightings during the 1950s, the Payette Lake monster only appears every few years and then only in warm weather.

To date, the best sighting appears to have been made by Pauline Miller, a resident of the community for over forty years. While seated at her office desk in the Lake View Hotel directly across from the lake itself, she observed an object thought to be a large boat floating near the city dock. Realizing that such big ships were not likely to be on the lake, she left her office and walked a few hundred feet across the street to get a better look. According to the **Idaho Statesman,** Mrs. Miller was shocked to



The Lake Okanago serpent looks like this Lock Ness picture taken by P.A. MacNab in 1955.

discover that the boat was in reality a "big fish of some sort." She watched it for two or three minutes and during that period she got a good look at the creature. The woman said the neck and head of the monster was submerged as if it were feeding but the back was sticking up and "it looked like wet rubber; it was black and slick." It had no scales on the back, but there were "three or four indentations like ditches, and as it swam, the water ran through these dents and over the back."

Suddenly, the creature turned in the water and revealed a distinct line at the bottom of what she now saw as a shell-like covering over its back. The **Statesman** reports Mrs. Miller as having said that the flesh of the creature was "brilliant white, with huge scales that glistened in the sun. It looked like mother of pearl." The witness added that the posterior section, like the head, was submerged, but it tapered back to about three feet in thickness, whereas the rest of the body was as wide as a car is long.

Down through the years local authorities have tried to discount the likelihood of the monster's existence. But those who live in the area are not ready to accept the various explanations. One theory offered by **Incredible Idaho** (a regional magazine) is that Sharlie hides in underwater caverns and only comes to the surface when her supply of food runs short.

To say the least, the Payette Lake serpent is the subject of a great deal of controversy. Nobody has proven to date that it doesn't exist.

THE CHEBOYGAN MONSTER

Not much has been printed on the serpents which haunt the Lake Huron shoreline near the northern Michigan resort town of Cheboygan. Last summer, swimmers reported seeing a school of "extremely large eels, serpents or monsters" depending on their vantage points. One observer, the owner of a nearby resort motel, said he saw a number of "things" which looked like snakes—maybe 25 feet long—with their heads slightly out of the water and traveling about three miles an hour. They were said to have been moving through the lake about five hundred feet off shore. One explanation, quickly discounted, was that the serpents were in actuality nothing more than a school of baby fish swimming one after another in a line that made them look like a big snake.

OGOPOGO

The Indians living around Lake Okanaga, in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, sighted *Ogopogo* centuries ago. Their legends are full of stories about a serpent creature swimming down the seventy-mile-long lake.

What was once thought to have been nothing more than superstition and myth has been confirmed in recent years by fishermen casting their nets here. Generally, the descriptions have tallied: The creature is said to be sixty feet long and built like a giant caterpillar.

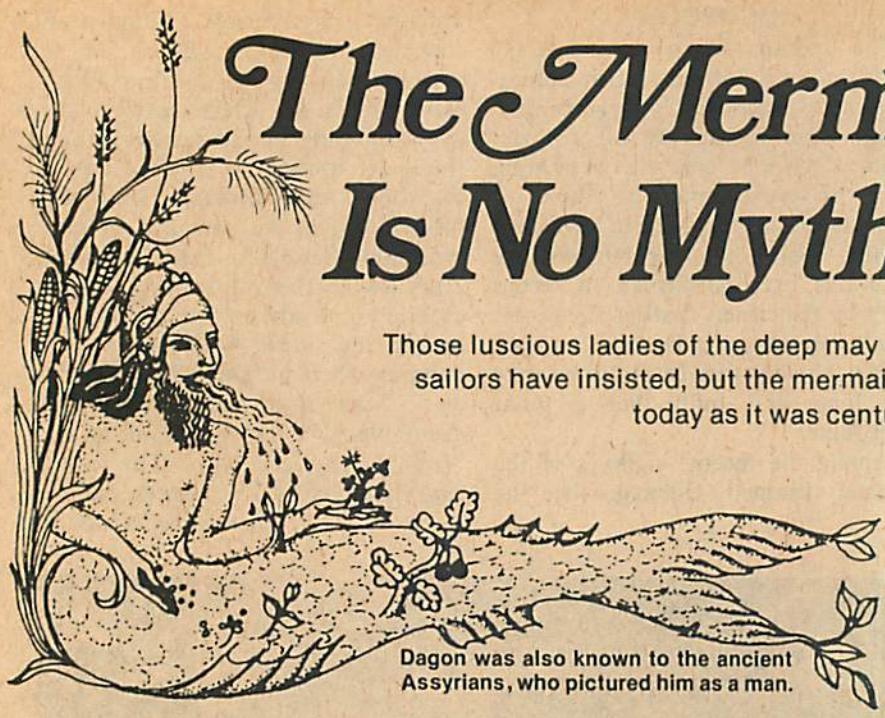
Among the recent sighters of the monster (named Ogopogo by the Indians) is Stan Baron of Calgary, and Lawney Scown of Coral Beach. The two men were fishing just south of Fintry, B.C., late in the afternoon when they saw something moving rapidly through the water toward them. "We were in our boat approximately 300 yards offshore when we saw this creature swimming parallel to the beach about 100 yards further out in the lake. The creature was attempting to push us toward the shore. We became really nervous when he started at us head on." Stan says the creature was "blue-black" in color and was at least "fifty to sixty feet long." The witness said that he and his partner watched

(Continued on page 57)

The McCall, Idaho's monster, has been described as a twin of this Lake La Metrie creature.

The Mermaid Myth Is No Myth At All!

Those luscious ladies of the deep may not be as beautiful as some sailors have insisted, but the mermaid mystery is as fascinating today as it was centuries ago!



Dagon was also known to the ancient Assyrians, who pictured him as a man.

By Bill Ryder

■ If you consider yourself an expert on the following subjects—psychology, anthropology, theology, mythology, astronomy or zoology—here is a one self-test questionnaire which may give you new insights into your knowledge:

A mermaid is:

A. An ugly mammal such as a manatee or a sea cow.
B. An optical illusion.
C. A mirage caused by the impact of long sea voyages.
D. A half-woman, half-fish creature who probably is an extra-terrestrial visitor.
E. All of the above.

The correct answer is: *All of the above.* At least that's the thinking which has been generated by the latest and most scientific probing into the existence and true identity of the beguiling and sinister mermaid. And the most interesting answer of all is D. *A half-woman, half-fish creature who probably is an extraterrestrial visitor.*

The first three answers can be disposed of quite easily. There's no doubt that many alleged sightings of mermaids—especially those in far northern latitudes—have, in reality, been sightings of massive manatees or sea cows. In fog-shrouded surroundings these animals appear remarkably like the popularly conceived shape of the mermaid. The fact that sea cows and manatees suckle their young has added to the mistaken impression they are mermaids. (Mermaids are often depicted as breast-feeding their babies.)

It is also true that offshore rock formations can often be mistaken for sea animals or so-called mythological monsters.

The greatest number of mermaid sightings were reported during the days of sail. Because the tall ships took months to cross the trade routes, modern psychologists contend that sexually deprived seamen conjured up images of seductive mermaids. As their frustrations grew, the seamen's sex-induced fantasies became very real to them. The mermaid became the seafarer's sex symbol.

Despite the logic of these three theories, there is one hypothesis which has exploded into the scientific consciousness in recent months. Unless somebody comes along with irrefutable proof to debunk it—and nobody has thus far—the strong probability remains that mermaids in many instances can be identified as extra-terrestrials from a distant star.

Much of the credit for the renewal of interest in mermaids and the willingness of at least a portion of the scientific community to open their minds to the distant star concept must go to the young American astronomer and Orientalist, Robert Semple. After eight long years of exhaustive research among members of an African tribe living in the most remote reaches of Timbuktu, West Africa, Semple is quite certain that mermaids first visited Earth from outer space some 5000 years ago.

Semple's contention is that the half-human and half-fish creatures traveled from an obscure planet (Sirius) which orbits the star. Sirius is at least 8.8 light years away from Earth.

According to the astronomer, the key to his theory is the discovery that early Timbuktuan civilizations had sophisticated and detailed information of Sirius which was denied to later astronomers until the latter half of the nineteenth century. In short, the natives of the area had no way of gaining their knowledge unless it had been imparted by space aliens.

One tribe, known as the Dogon, centered their entire lives around the worship of Sirius (the dog star). And the most amazing fact about their religion was that their veneration did not have to do with Sirius itself, but with a planet in its orbit which cannot be seen by the naked eye.

High priests of the tribe have amazed French anthropologists with the scope of their knowledge about the planet. And they have proved that their information has been handed down from generation to generation of tribesmen over a period of fifty centuries.

One example of the Dogons' expertise is the fact that they insist Sirius is extremely heavy. This has been confirmed by modern astronomers who say Sirius' companion star, Sirius B, is a white dwarf. White dwarfs are stars in the early stages of collapse. Were you to fill a matchbox with rocks from such a star, the matchbox would weigh about 50 tons.

In his book, **The Sirius Mystery,** Semple asks, "How could they know this?"

Answering his own question, he contends that the Dogons received their information from extraterrestrial mermaids. And why mermaids?

The clues which abound among these tribesmen and three of their neighboring tribes include weird fish-like creatures and depictions of the flight path of Sirius B which occur over and over again in the tribe's most primitive wood carvings and paintings. The symbols have even been woven into cloth by the ancient tribesmen.

A careful study of other cultures provides remarkable backing for Semple's contention. Based on his work, I have delved into such diverse civilizations as the Babylonians, Egyptians and Greeks, and have come up with the same veneration of the half-human, half-fish creature as that shown by the Dogons.

The first of the Babylonian gods, Oannes, represented the sun. Oannes had the form of a man, except for his head and skin. The god sported the head of a fish and his body, instead of being covered with mammalian skin, was made of fish scales.

In later years, Oannes was replaced by Ea, who was half-man and half-fish.

And the most significant Babylonian deity of all was the moon goddess Atagartis. She took the form of half-woman and half-fish.

For their part, Egyptians equated Sirius and Sirius B with the overflowing of the mighty Nile which fertilized their lands. The rising of the star signaled the beginning of flood time to them.

And the Greeks, who were fascinated by the existence of exotic sea nymphs, also attributed meteorolgical phenomena to Sirius and its dwarf. Summer heat, they reasoned, was brought by Sirius. (Incidentally, this carries over into current times. We refer to "The Dog Days of Summer," because they come at the time when Sirius, the dog star, is in its prominence.)

Was it then merely myth that the sinister Greek sirens, whose descriptions were so like those of mermaids, worked their wiles on Greek sailors? Or was there something else?

We know that the word *siren* stems from *Sirius*. We know the daughters of Phorius and Achelous inhabited an island which was surrounded by rocks off the Greek mainland. We know that Jason and his Argonauts were alleged to have employed the music of Orpheus to combat them and that Odysseus had himself tied to his ship's mast and his men's ears stopped up in order to protect themselves from the sirens' lilting and ship-wrecking songs.

In India the sea-creature was the Apsaurus. While it differed somewhat in its physical description from the amphibious denizens of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, it had many of the same characteristics.

And so it went. Cultures which existed thousands of miles apart with no human means of communication between them almost simultaneously began emphasizing the presence of mermaids. Even more critical in the appraisal of this phenomenon is the role played by Sirius.

The ancients' sophisticated knowledge of Sirius provides the key because a thorough investigation of astronomical history proves conclusively that no science then known to Earth men could have provided them with the information they had.

Not until the year 1844 did Freidrich Wilhelm Bessel, professor of astronomy at the University of Koenigsberg and one of the greatest astronomers of all times, postulate that an obscure companion star (the one which the Dogons had known for 5000 years) existed. It wasn't until 18 years later that Bessel's contention was proved by the American astronomer Alvan G. Clark, who was to achieve fame as the man who ground the 26-inch lens for the telescope of the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. Using the highest powered telescopic equipment then available, Clark was able to detect Sirius' companion star. It was in the exact position Bessel had predicted. And in the exact position the ancient Dogons had placed it.

Throughout the centuries sightings of mermaids were reported. There is no doubt that some were the result of overactive imaginations, optical illusions or mistaken identity. But there were others by scientifically oriented men who would not easily be fooled.

Christopher Columbus was one of these. The "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" was, according to naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison, one of the most gifted seamen of all times. Morison considered Columbus a navigator without peer, a scientifically oriented man who intuitively understood the trade winds and made them work for him, a man whose interests were catholic and a man who would not be taken in by fantasy.

Columbus' Santa Maria log on the first of his four voyages notes a sighting of three mermaids leaping out of the sea off the coast of Guiana.

No more fearless nor more pragmatic seamen than Henry Hudson ever lived. On June 15, 1625, Hudson, while searching for a northwest passage to the Orient, reported sighting a half-woman, half-fish creature.

One wonders whether the logs of the great explorers don't give weight to the perhaps unlogged but well told tales of older sailors who preceded them. Did the earlier seafarers see much the same type of thing? And did they return home to tell their townsmen of the sightings? And is this the reason that carvings of mermaids appear on numerous churches throughout Europe?

Stories of sightings have been well documented and a leisurely perusal of the subject provides the utmost in fascination.

The Scotsman William Munro discovered a mermaid off the coast of Caithress, Scotland in the 1890s. Munro watched the mermaid unconcernedly combing her long hair while a wild surf swirled and eddied around the jagged rocks which formed her perch. So dangerous was the water that no human could have risked the site the mermaid had chosen, and hope to survive.

The Mermaid of Ambonia, which was caught off the coast of Borneo in the year 1717, lived on dry land for four days.

The incredible story of Alexander

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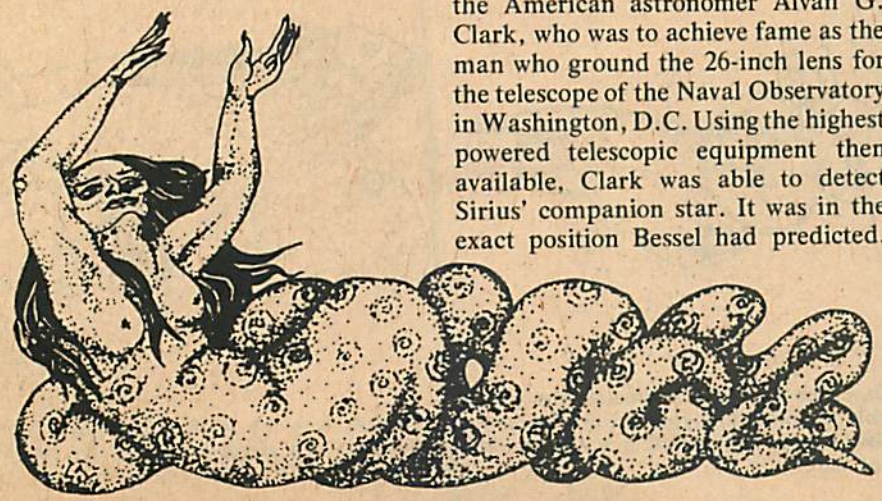


Echidna, the Egyptian mermaid.

The Naginis are the mermaids of India.

Melusina was a French mermaid who reportedly married the noble Raymond of Lusignan.

The Hindu god Vishnu, the god of wisdom, is often shown coming from the mouth of a great fish.

Gunn in north Scotland is a story that was to be repeated in almost the exact detail by two girls some fifty years later.

Gunn had been walking his dog in the year 1900 when he chanced upon an extremely beautiful mermaid. The mermaid was stroking her golden hair and gazed upon Gunn with large green eyes.

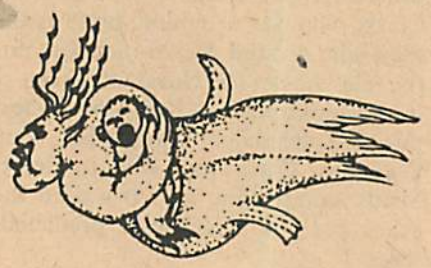
In 1950, two young schoolgirls happened on exactly the same spot and found a mermaid who had been trapped on the rocks when the rapidly ebbing tide left her high and dry.

The report of Eric de Bisschop is that on January 3, 1950, a crewman aboard his ship was assaulted by a mermaid which had jumped out of the sea and onto the deck to knock him down. Hearing the man's cries, de Bisschop went to his rescue. He was convinced that the man had indeed been attacked by a mermaid when he discovered the sailor's arm was coated with fish scales.

Depictions of mermaids are annotated in the writings of Bishop Pontoppides, who spent a lifetime investigating sea phenomena. Pontoppides' 1744 work may be seen at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology, where it forms part of the Forbes Collection of the Hart Nautical Museum.

The **London Mirror** on November 8, 1822, did carry a lengthy article tracing the history of mermaid discovery throughout the world. Cited are cases from Batavia in the East Indies to the estuary of the Thames.

Of particular interest in this study is the generally uniform description of the mermaids. In most cases the creatures were endowed with amply well shaped breasts which resembled those of a woman. They had long hair



Dracs are European mermaids who are unable to nurse their young. For this reason they kidnap unsuspecting women to do it for them!

Oannes was the ancient "merman" who lived off the coast of Persia. He taught men civilization.

The sea manatee, which some scholars say gave rise to many mermaid sightings.

Dagon, the mythological mermaid of antiquity.

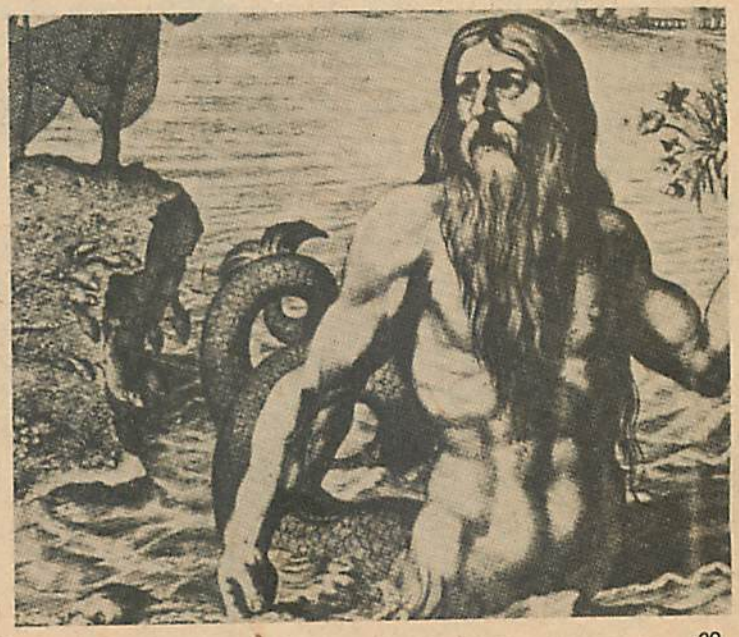
and spent much effort in combing it. Their length was given variously at anywhere from three to five feet. Most had arms and hands with four fingers. They had fins at a point close to their waists, which allowed them to float in an upright position. They were carnivorous—accepting offerings of raw fish tossed to them by seamen. They were to be found in rivers, lakes and harbors as well as far out at sea. While there were obvious fakes among the accounts concerning mermaids, men of known integrity and scholarship had given convincing depositions to the crown's representatives. The king's agents saw no reason to doubt their veracity.

The skeptic may laugh off mermaid sightings by arguing that the vast majority of them occurred during the time of sailing ships and relatively few have been reported in recent times. However, this argument does not stand up when one takes into consideration the highly complex and still unexplained sound sensitivity of the porpoise. This lovable mammal has developed a sonar reckoning which is far more advanced than anything man can produce with all of his electronic equipment.

Just about every mermaid authentication has one thing in common—the creature ran from the ship and dove as deep as it could to escape the vessel.

Perhaps the fact that sailing ships operated silently allowed them to get closer to the creatures who today are forewarned by the throbbing of diesels and the churning of a ship's propellers.

And let the skeptics explain how the sea-creature-worshiping Dogons were able to fix Sirius' elusive companion star some 5000 years before modern astronomers searched it out of the heavens with their telescopes. ●



Glaucus, the Greek god of the sea, was a "merman."

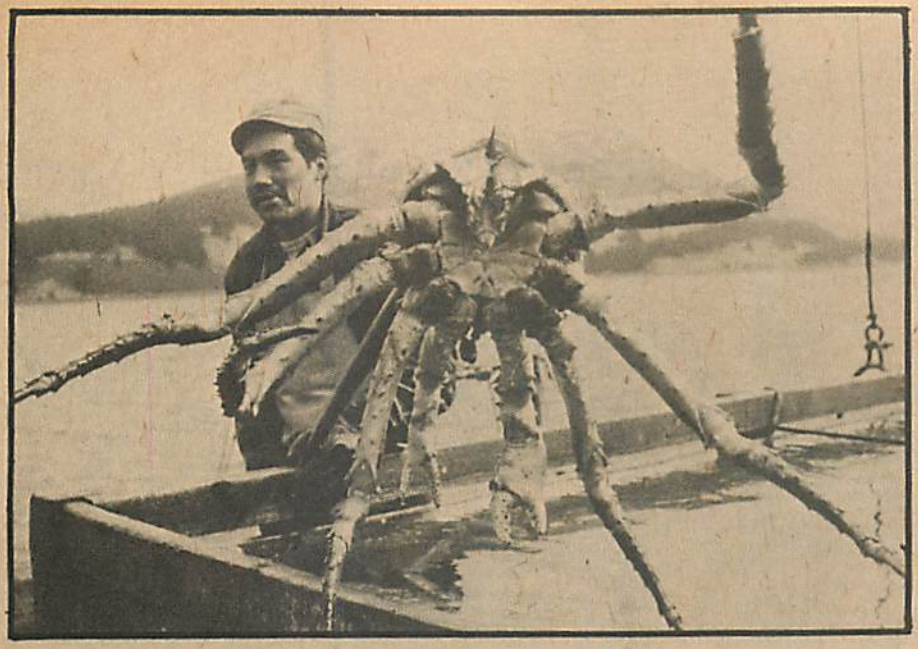
IS CREEPING POLLUTION ATTRACTING GIANT SEA MONSTERS TO OUR SHORES?

By B. R. Ampolski

It has been said that we all pay for polluting our environment, but one day mankind may be paid back with a horrifying surprise if it continues to foul the oceans!

■Immersed in the sticky crisis of spreading organic waste sludge off Long Island's pristine beaches and oil slicks which have coated the California coast, oceanologists believe the American mania for fouling its ecological environment may be playing a major role in attracting real life giant sea serpents which stagger the imagination to our shores.

As one highly qualified marine biologist told this writer,



Giant crabs thrive on dead fish from polluted waters and are becoming larger and more numerous along American shores.

"Let's face it, when you start dumping all this gook into the water, it changes the life cycle and strange things happen. When they began getting rid of old automobiles by shoving them off the end of barges along the Carolinas, they set up an artificial barrier reef. Before we knew it, we had a major feeding ground where none had existed. Smaller forms of marine life became prey for larger forms. It wasn't long before we were seeing sharks in sheltered areas where we'd never seen them before. In my opinion the same thing is now happening as far as giant sea serpents are concerned. Although I've never seen one, I'd be the last person to say these snake-like monsters don't exist. There's a lot of water out there and it covers a number of mysterious forms of life. We oceanologists are finding more every day, and we must keep an open mind to seemingly outlandish tales about creatures which bear no resemblance to known species. There are only two things of which we can be sure at this point. One is that we can't write off the sightings of reasonable men. The other is that if it's out there and it eats, our tampering with the ocean's structure will bring it within hailing distance of our beaches. That's exactly what we have done with sharks."

This writer has interviewed reasonable men who have given mind-boggling descriptions of great and grotesque serpentine animals. He has seen the conviction in their eyes. He has heard the corroborating testimony of other witnesses. And he has been convinced by what he has heard.

John Axelson, third officer aboard the luxury liner *Santa Clara*, stood the bridge watch along with chief mate William Humphreys and navigation officer John Rigney on the bright sunny noon of December 30, 1970, as the pride of the Grace Line steamed off the coast of California.

As Rigney was about to shoot the sun with his sextant, one of the men gave a startled cry. "My God, look at that!" he shouted. Rushing to the starboard bridge rail and staring with mouths

Why did this healthy whale suddenly commit suicide near La Panne, Belgium?

agape at a point off the starboard bow, the men were absolutely spellbound as they watched the undulating three foot thick eel-like head of some gigantic sea animal approaching them. The ship's officers stood transfixed.

"If it's an inch long, it's all of 45 feet!" one noted.

"It can't be a fish. There are no scales and its skin is brown."

"There's a red stain spreading the surface. That's got to be blood! I think we've hit it!"

Several minutes later United States Coast Guard radio receivers were monitoring a message from the *Santa Clara's* radio shack which could have served as the opening dialogue for a sci-fi monster picture.

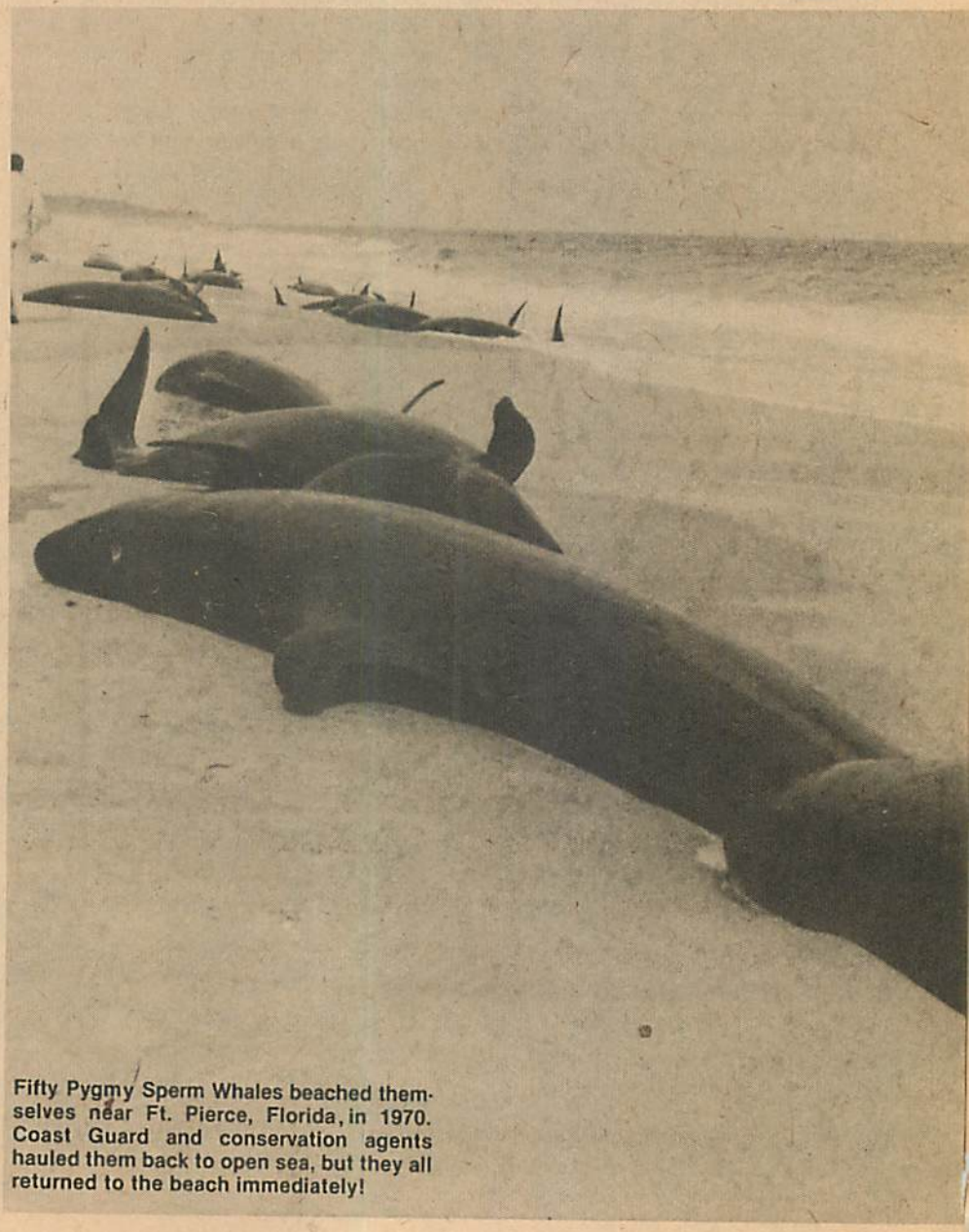
After giving her call letters, longitude and lattitude, the Grace Line vessel reported she had just struck and injured a sea monster.

The word went out and brought seasoned journalists to the *Santa Clara's* pier to await her docking. Standing there and listening to the dispassionate report of three highly trained and responsible officers who had been entrusted with the safety and welfare of a multi-million dollar vessel and the lives of her passengers, one had to stipulate the following facts. The sea creature had not been seen by one, but three men. These veteran sailors were not given to hysterics. Their descriptions of the sea serpent and the events which had taken place after its sighting were typical of those provided by men who have been trained to take note of details.

For me, the full impact did not come in the sailor's spoken words. It arrived in reading the ship's log and in knowing that any person who falsely enters any item in such a log is guilty of a federal offense which calls for loss of license and imprisonment.

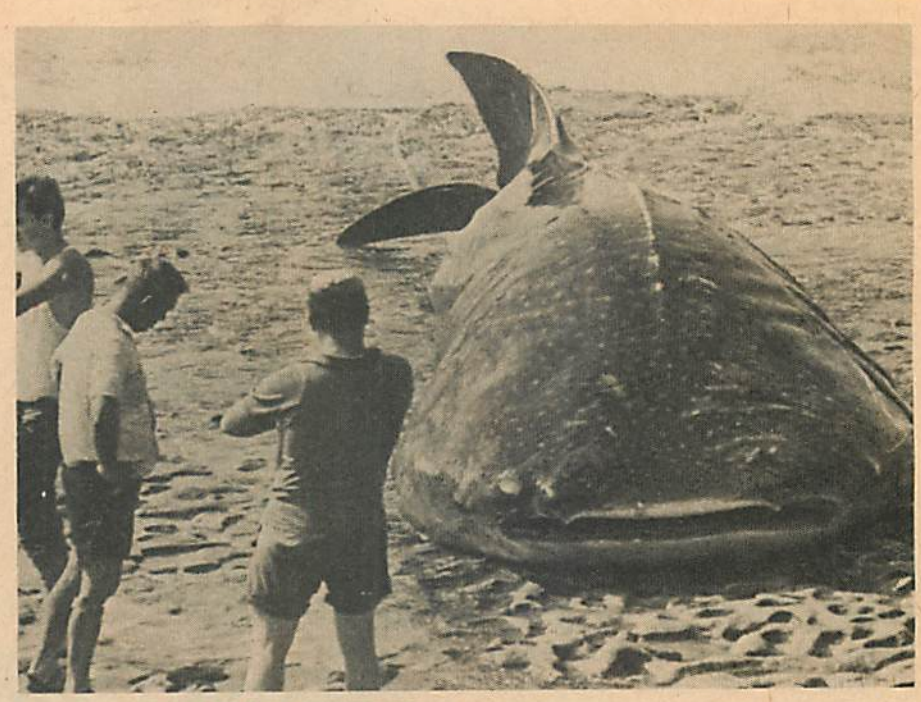
It was obvious that Humphreys, Axelson and Rigney were so completely convinced of what had occurred that they insisted it become a part of the Santa Clara's permanent record. And in typical laconic language, this is that portion of the log which deals with the sea serpent.

"At noon of 30 December, these three men had gathered on the ship's bridge to shoot the sun for navigational purposes. Mr. Axelson abruptly noted that a snake-like head had come up out of the sea off the ship's starboard bow. He called to the others and pointed out the sea monster and all watched in amazement as the beast first came close by the bridge and then fell astern.

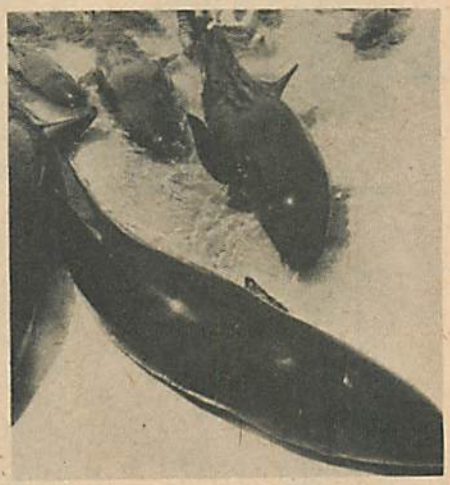


Fifty Pygmy Sperm Whales beached themselves near Ft. Pierce, Florida, in 1970. Coast Guard and conservation agents hauled them back to open sea, but they all returned to the beach immediately!

One hundred and forty-seven Bottlenose whales committed mass suicide on the beach at Lothian, Scotland. Many lingered for hours in agony.

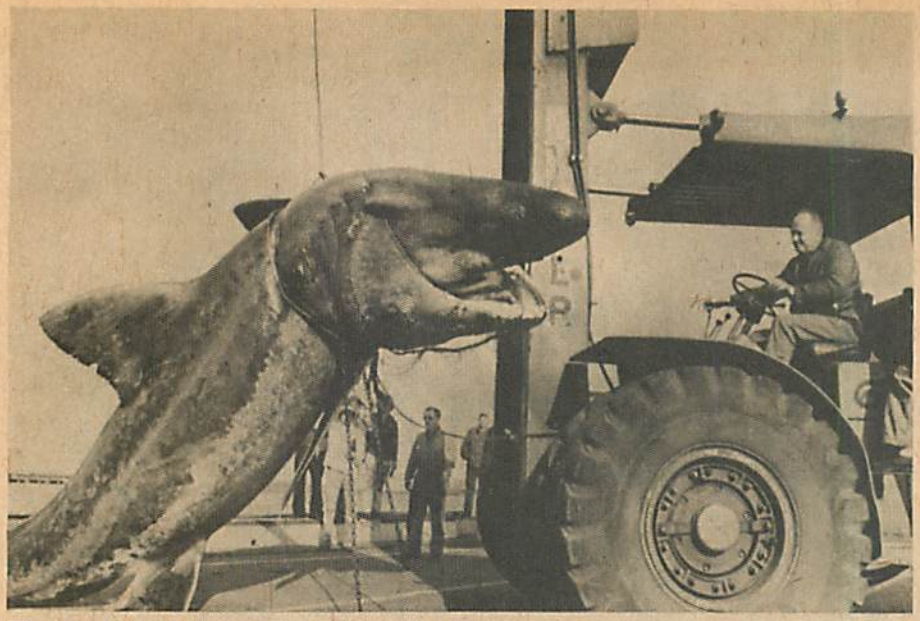


This true sea monster, a whale shark, deliberately beached itself near Sydney, Australia in 1965. Why?



Volunteers try in vain to keep a herd of thirty whales from committing mass suicide in the Florida Keys.

Over 200 porpoises deliberately beached themselves at Ito, Japan, in 1962. Zoologists are unable to explain what causes this odd behavior.



This strange-looking fish was hauled out of the Dawamish River in Seatte, Washington. The monster had apparently swam into fresh water from an ocean inlet.

This cancerous octopus wandered aimlessly along a Japanese beach unaware that it was out of the water!

They described the head of the serpent as being two-and-a-half feet wide, about five feet long and approximately two feet thick. The tubular-shaped body of the serpent was approximately three feet in diameter and, as the animal came abeam of the ship, it was noticed that the water was stained red. There emerged about 35 feet of body, which had a skin that was without scales, appeared dark brown, and gave no evidence of hair or fins. It was believed because of the color of the water that the sea monster had been hit by the keel of the ship. This assumption even now seems valid, as the animal twisted and thrashed in a manner suggesting it was severely hurt. There appeared no section of the serpent-like body on the opposite side of the ship, which might have suggested how much of the torso had been cut off."

Shore bound icthyologists neither talked to the sailors nor dwelled on the ship's log. They were too ready with their pat answer. "No monster," they said. "What was sighted was an oarfish."

According to my research, however, there's only one problem. That is the relatively rare oarfish has never grown to a length of more than 20 feet—or if it has, nobody has ever produced a specimen which has grown larger. Those in aquariums, such as the one at Clearwater, Florida, fall well within the 20 foot range.

One sighting, no matter how sober and well qualified the witnesses, might be explained away. It could be some quirk of the atmosphere which distorts vision and gives objects odd shapes. Were there no more than one incident reported, it would provide its "gee whiz!" instant and be forgotten almost immediately.

However, intensive research uncovers these thoroughly documented accounts of sea serpent encounters.

Item: In July, 1970, *President Grant*, a freight-passenger vessel steaming off the California coast, experienced severe bow vibrations while underway. The chief engineering officer became convinced the cause of the trouble was a major change in the bow configuration. The vessel limped back to port where an under-the-waterline hull examination revealed *President Grant's* sharp bow had impaled some huge sea serpent whose skeletal remains still remained entangled there. Experts made a detailed study of the bones and found they fitted the characteristics of no known species of aquatic life. The question which remains unanswered until the present time is what type of marine serpent is large enough to impair the operation of a 14,000 ton vessel?

Item: A college-trained business executive says that while working aboard a commercial fisherman off New Harbor, Maine, under way on a number two sea on the Beaufort scale, he noticed his diesel engine laboring and something fouling the trawling net. Although it was nighttime, he was able to see a pair of bright green eyes the size of basketballs peering at him from the port rail. His description of the snake-like creature's body had its diameter at better than two feet. He notes the animal drifted off the fisherman's stern, gave a gentle sigh

(Continued on page 58)

Sea Monsters In The Gulf Coast:

A Coast Guard Diver Reports His Sighting

By Mark Daniels

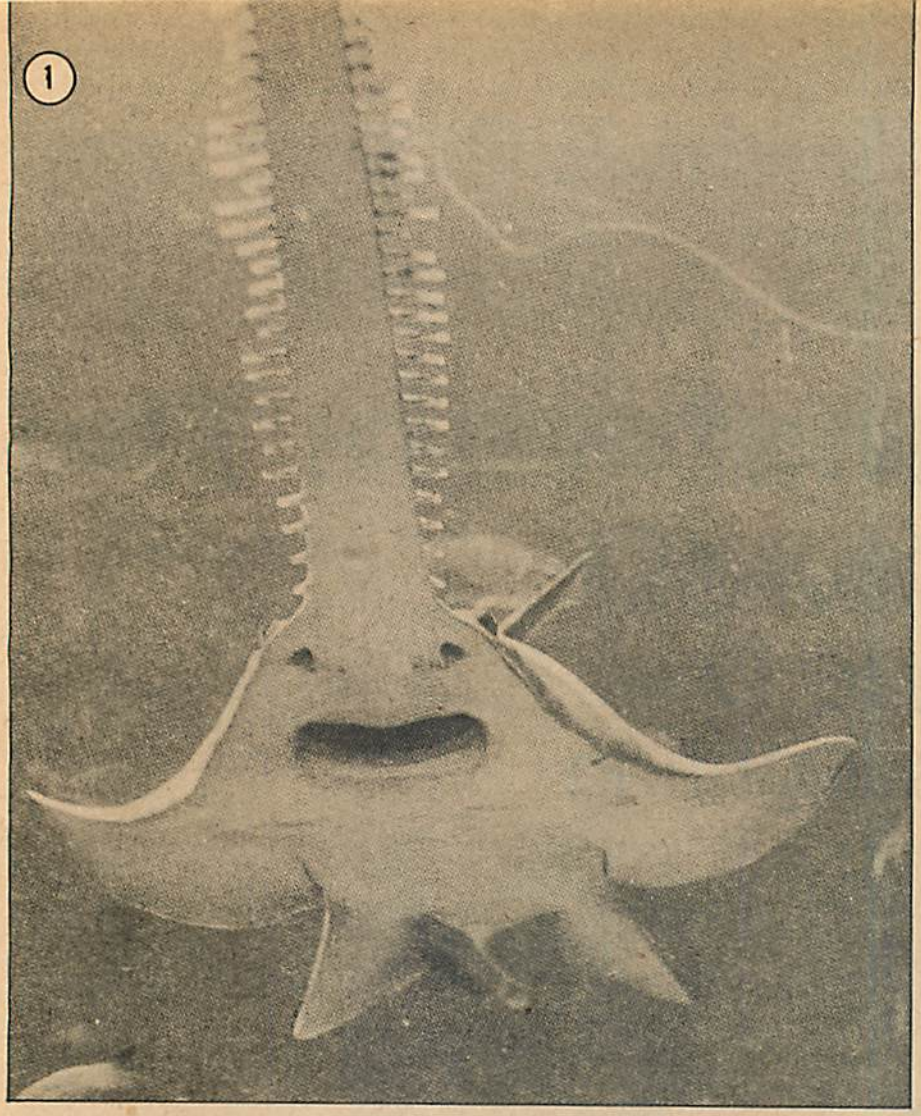
Sea monsters today? A distinct possibility, considering this report from a former deep-sea diver with the United States Coast Guard!

■ Over the past few years it seems as if people are more willing to talk about strange experiences and things they can't themselves explain. I have read many reports about such things as UFOs, the Bermuda Triangle, and monsters both on land and in the sea, and I thought that maybe it was time I told someone about the one experience I had during World War II.

I served in the United States Coast Guard from 1942 to 1946 in the capacity of a deep-sea diver. I did mostly salvage location work, but once in awhile I was called on to do rescue operations when some hot-shot pilot would overshoot the deck of an aircraft carrier. I was pretty happy with my work. I knew it was important and I enjoyed being on the ocean bottom. For me it was a whole new world, entirely different from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The particular experience I would like to tell you about happened between Galveston and Corpus Christi along the Gulf of Mexico. It was late September 1944 and a heavily loaded freighter had emergency rudder problems during some really rough and

Could Coast Guardsman Daniels have seen a *loligo*, or giant squid, during his dive off the coast of Texas? Or was it something even stranger?



The ocean depths have dangers enough for any diver: (1) The saw of a sawfish can slice a man in two; (2) Octopuses are in the same family as the giant squid; (3) The jaws of death of the killer shark are well known; (4) The giant grouper can suck a diver into its huge jaws.

choppy seas. Because of the danger that the ship would go aground without being able to steer itself away from land, the Coast Guard was called out to help make repairs. I was on duty that day and went down to make a survey of the damage. I noticed that some of the rudder hinge had actually torn away from the hull, and I requested that the ship be maneuvered to as shallow water as possible since she was heavy and sat low in the water and some emergency spot welding was going to be necessary. I hoped to start the long repairs near a sand bar where I could stand on the ocean bottom to do the welding.

The sand bar on which I stood was in a generally high area on the ocean floor and the whole site was covered with kelp fields. Kelp fields are large areas of underwater "seaweed" that grow very high and dense. This area was especially thick and the rough seas caused the kelp field to sway back and forth like a forest on a windy day.

It was about 11:00 a.m. by the time all preparations were made. But as I began to move my equipment towards the stern of the ship, I had the strange feeling that something on the ocean floor had changed. Then out of the corner of my eye I caught a sudden disturbance on the sea bottom which caused a very large dust cloud to spew upward. Because of the force and magnitude of the disturbance I knew that it was not caused by the rough seas. Since it might have been caused by a school of sharks, I dropped my welding equipment and moved towards the edge of the kelp and waited silently. To my surprise, the disturbance continued even more violently and I really started to get scared. I had never seen such a huge disturbance on the ocean floor!

I kept watching in the direction of the cloud and soon I could make out a cylinder-shaped form which ran nearly the length of the freighter. I couldn't compare it to anything I had ever seen before, and I had seen many strange looking structures before, such as ship hulls, sunken vessels, and all types of salvage. As the underwater dust began to clear, I saw more of the object. I noticed that the cylinder tapered at one end into a "neck" and the whole thing looked like a monstrous hose and

nozzle. But then a huge fin came into view and I could see that the object had a rippled "hull," which I quickly realized was made up of gigantic, thick scales or plates!

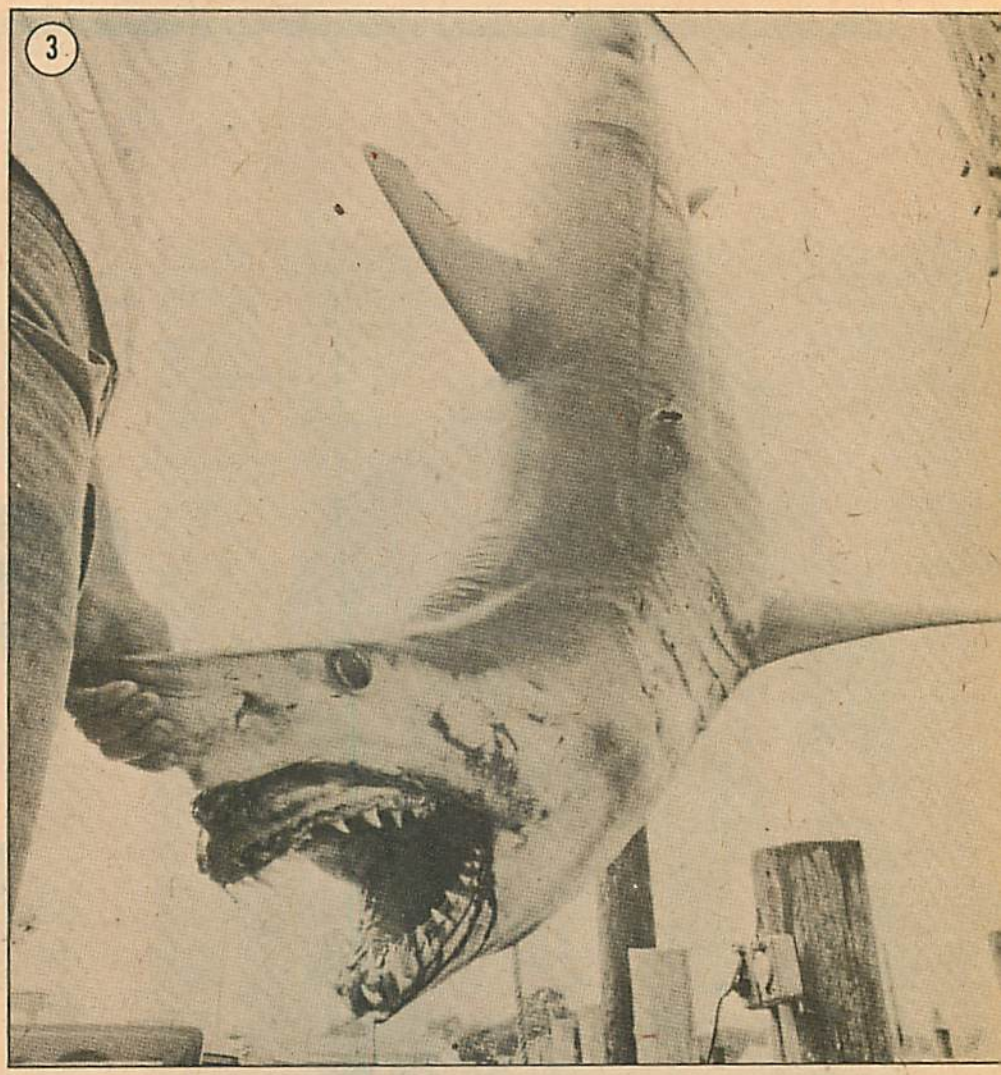
I stood petrified and all sorts of things were running through my head. I truly didn't believe what I was seeing. It became even clearer as the cloud around it dissipated and I could see even more of its hideous features. Although I couldn't see any eyes, I was sure the object was a creature of some sort. I knew that if I could see it clearer, then it would soon notice me or at least see the track of air bubbles which led directly to me! Then I saw another great dust cloud shoot up from that spot and I thought for sure the creature had me spotted. I threw myself on the ocean floor. I even tried to bury my head in the sand to help hide my bubbles!

I must have stayed like that for three or four minutes when, to my horror, I felt myself being pulled up off the sea bottom. I couldn't see above me, but I glanced back at the spot where the cloud had formed. I was moving upward so rapidly that I could see above the cloud, and there hanging in the water above it were thousands of lifeless shrimp, glistening like so many silver dollars.

Finally I realized that the diving barge had started pulling me up for I had been motionless for so long. As soon as I reached the deck, I ordered the crew to put me back in the water. I had to see if the object was still there. I went all the way down to the same spot and carefully checked the terrain for evidence of what I had seen. However, all I found were thousands of dead shrimp and a large area of kelp with the tops torn off and the edges a brownish or reddish color. It was bizarre!

I surfaced once more and couldn't give any answer to the crew's questions about what was going on. The freighter never did get repaired that day, but more important I couldn't bring myself to work underwater anymore. I couldn't concentrate on the work to be done because I was afraid of being taken by surprise by whatever it was I saw that day. In a few months I transferred to shore duty and I have never gone deep-sea diving since.

Maybe I overreacted to what I saw, but I now realize that what I saw was very much like the various unexplainable things that so many people have reported from all over the world. Something strange lives in the sea, be it serpents or whatever! ●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Sketch of a part-dog, part-seal creature that lived in the sea taken from the History of Herodotus.

THE SELKIES—SEAL PEOPLE OF THE NORTH!

Some scientists claim that man evolved not from the chimpanzee but from some sort of aquatic ape, an ape-like creature that could live both on land and in the sea. The ancient Viking legends reported just such a creature: the Selkie!

By Mark M. Keller

■ The fishermen who live on the island between Scotland and Ireland are careful observers of the sea and sea-life. They have to be so in order to go out every day in small boats to net their food supply and source of income. The Atlantic is a rough sea and the fish are not always easy to find.

Much of the sea-lore on the islands goes back to the Vikings who sailed out into the "Sea of Darkness" five hundred years before Columbus. The Vikings settled on little specks of rock—the Shetlands, the Orkneys, the Faroes, the Hebrides. They told stories that may appear fantastic to landsfolk but are simply truth to those who know the great ocean.

They told about the sea monsters of the deep—the "Kraken," a multi-armed horror that stole men from the decks of ships (giant squid); the giant white whale that hated men and would smash their boats given the chance. They talked about sea people who had their own language and society (dolphins). They told of sea-unicorns with one gleaming twisted ivory horn that could smash through the bottom of a wooden hull (narwhals).

Some of their stories, though, can't quite be explained by modern science. The Vikings told of creatures so large they were mistaken for floating islands. They told of giant sea serpents that have not yet been definitely identified.

Picture of "umibohzu," the giant half-man creature that terrorized sailors off the coast of Japan.

And they spoke of the "selkies," the seal-people of the northern seas.

Selkies are skin-turners, shape-changers. In the sea they look like the Grey Seals of the Atlantic, frolicking in the waves, chasing fish and crawling out on land to bask in the sun. When selkies come out onto the beaches, they slip out of their loose skins and stand up revealed as human beings. They walk inland and visit pubs and eat the food stored in nearby cottages. Then they go back down to the beach and slip on their sealskins and—become seals once again.

There is an old song about selkies, heard on the Scottish islands and recently recorded by Joan Baez as a ballad. It begins: "I am a man upon the land/I am a selchie in the sea. . ." That about sums it up. The selkies can lead two lives, on land or on sea, depending on their wishes.

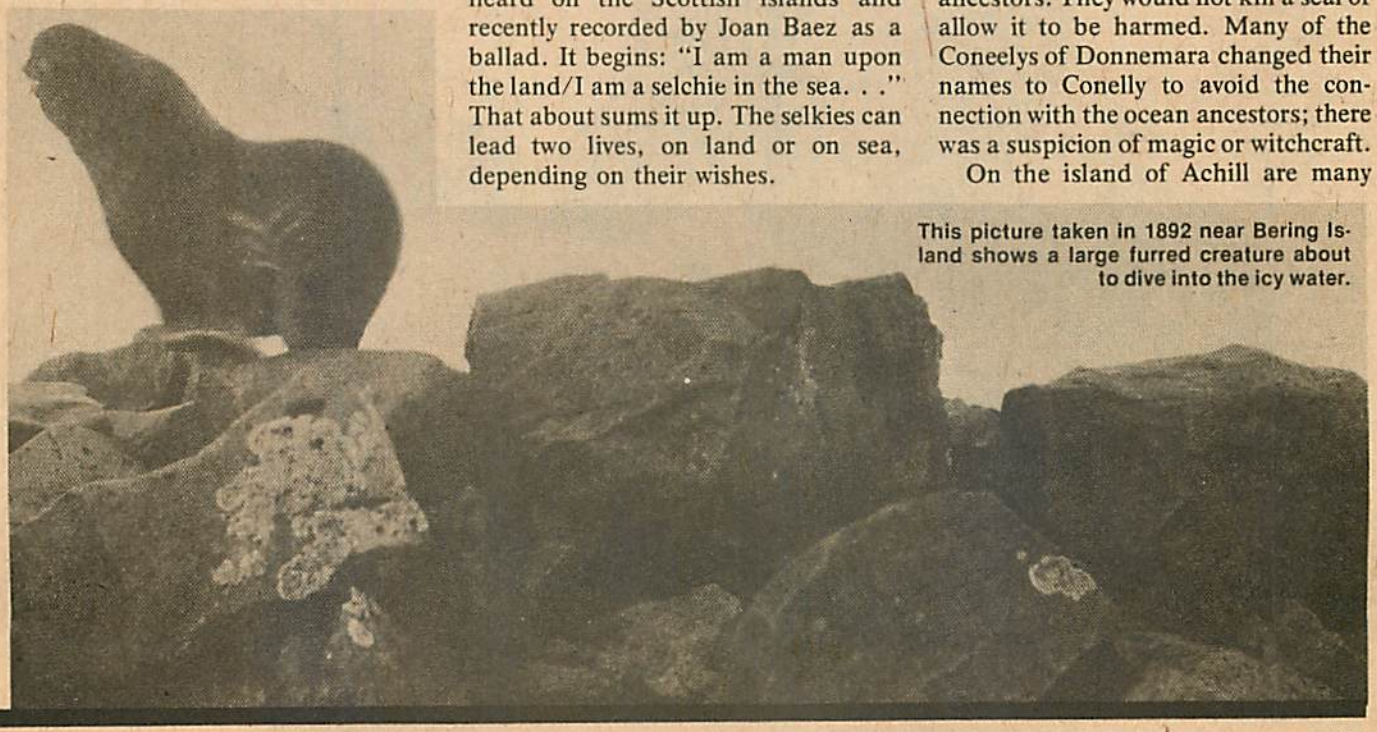
Selkies are not the same as werewolves. They are not evil or hostile to man. Most of the time they are friendly and try to help humans. Of course, there are limits. A man who kills too many seals, or who destroys the sealskins while the selkies are in human guise, is going to get them angry at him. This can be very dangerous, since the selkies keep a grudge for a long, long time, and they do have great powers in their ocean realm.

The Vikings told the stories a thousand years ago, and the stories spread wherever the dragon-ships went. Scotland, Ireland, then north to Iceland and Greenland, and west to the shores of Canada. The Vikings retreated from the islands of Britain but the stories remain, as do the Grey Seals off the beaches and—maybe—the selkies.

There are families along the Irish coast that trace their descent to one of the sea-people who came to stay on land. To this day many of the children born on the islands have thin webs between the fingers of their hands when they are born, and unless this web is cut away repeatedly in childhood the fingers will grow together into a seal-like flipper rather than a human hand. The clan McPhee of Colonsay had for an ancestor a strange web-fingered woman who was found washed up on the rocks after a severe winter storm.

The clan Coneely and the Irish Lees listed sea-people or selkies among their ancestors. They would not kill a seal or allow it to be harmed. Many of the Coneelys of Donnemara changed their names to Conelly to avoid the connection with the ocean ancestors; there was a suspicion of magic or witchcraft.

On the island of Achill are many



This picture taken in 1892 near Bering Island shows a large furred creature about to dive into the icy water.

such "seal" families. In Kerry the O'Sullivans and the O'Flahertys, and in Clare the Macnamaras could name selkies in their family. In all cases the story is pretty much the same.

Two groups of intelligent beings lived in the sea off the rocky coasts of the northern islands: the peaceful and gentle rey Seals, and the selkies—humans who lived in the ocean and wore sealskin costumes when they swam the oceans. Selkies could shed their sealskins on land and live among men, but in the water who could tell them from real seals? It was safest not to kill seals at all, lest you got a selkie by mistake and found the sea-people coming to avenge the death.

Now the seals themselves are fascinating creatures. Curious, affectionate, with large soft eyes and graceful motion they will follow fishing boats in the bays of the Hebrides—some looking for discarded fish, some trying to understand the two-legged creatures that travel across the top of their homeland. Naturalists such as Gavin Maxwell have written books about the friendliness of the seals on the distant islands where they are not hunted.

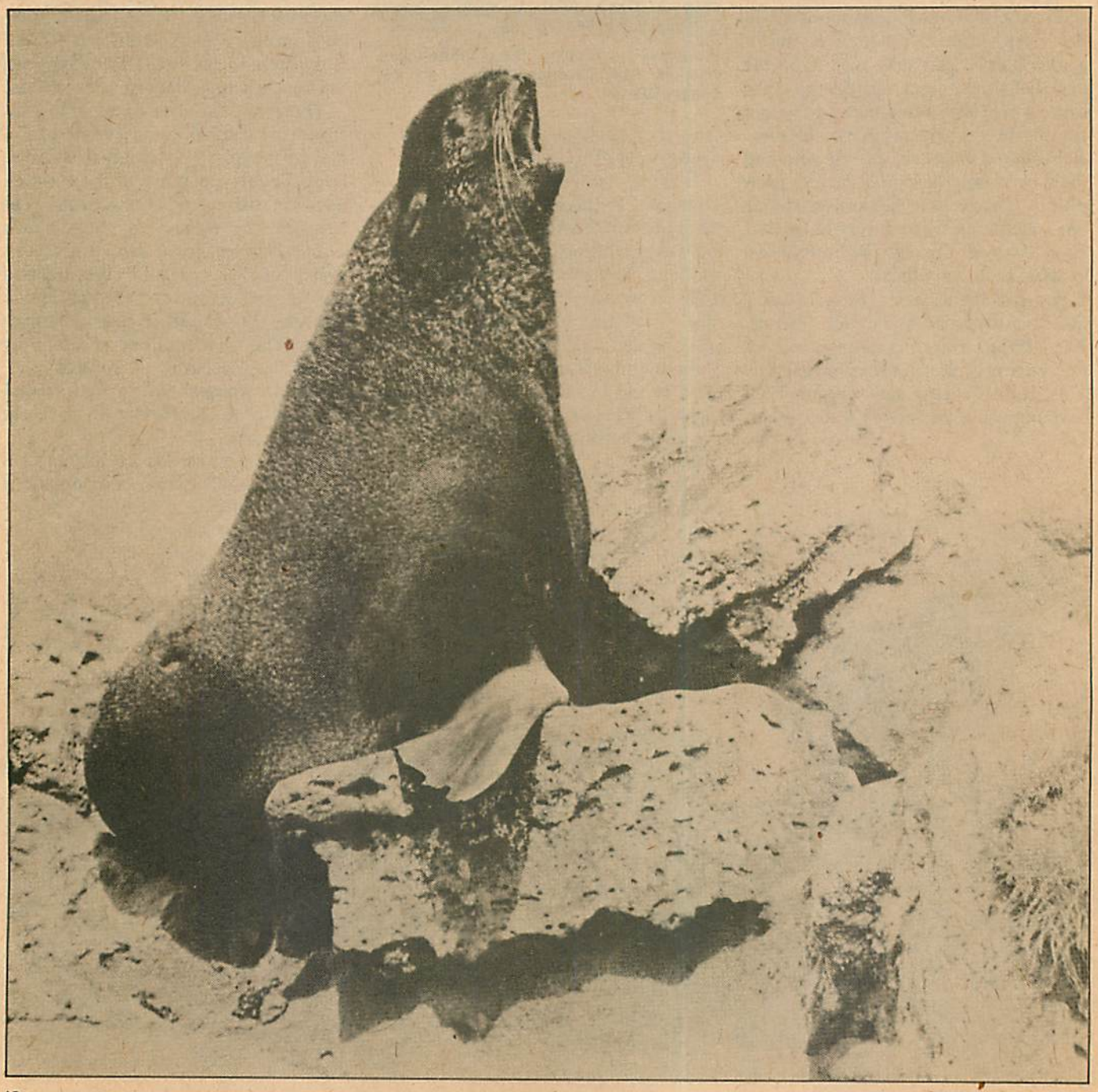
But even more interesting are the others mixed in with the seals—humans who can speak and who can mate with earth humans, but who prefer instead to keep their ways in the cold salty ocean.

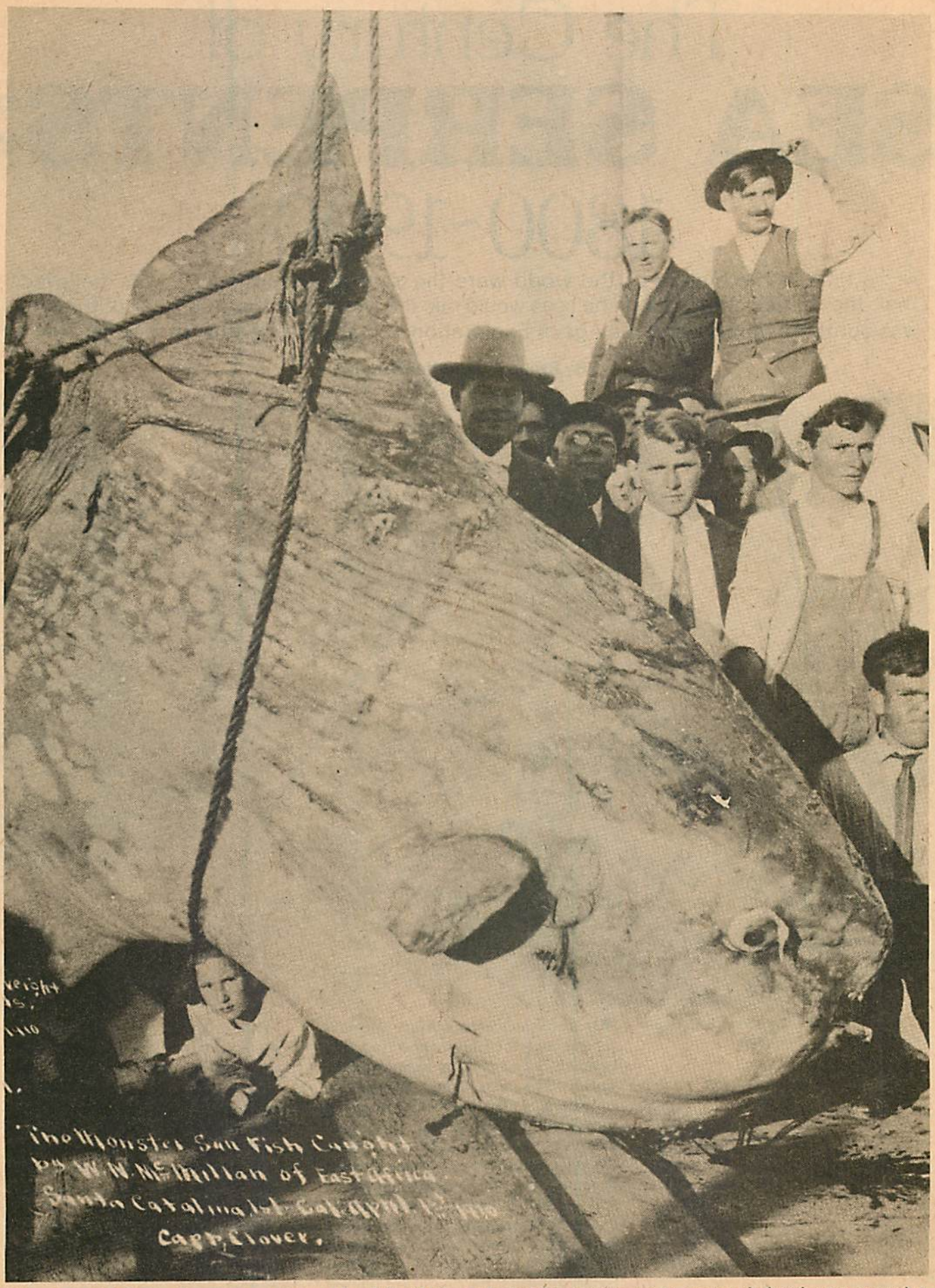
In the Hebrides on the isle of North Uist lives the clan MacCodrum, also called MacCodrum of the Seals. On the hands and feet of most of the MacCodrum children are small hardened patches, what seem to be patches of horn on palms and soles. These were once full-sized webs, two or three hundred years ago, and they come from the selkie woman who once lived as a human wife on the island. The local residents told it to traveller David Thomson this way, as related in his book **People of the Sea** (1954):

"MacCodrum was a fisherman who saw a selkie woman swim ashore one day on a gravel beach seldom visited by

(Continued on page 62)

A fur seal in its Alaskan habitat.



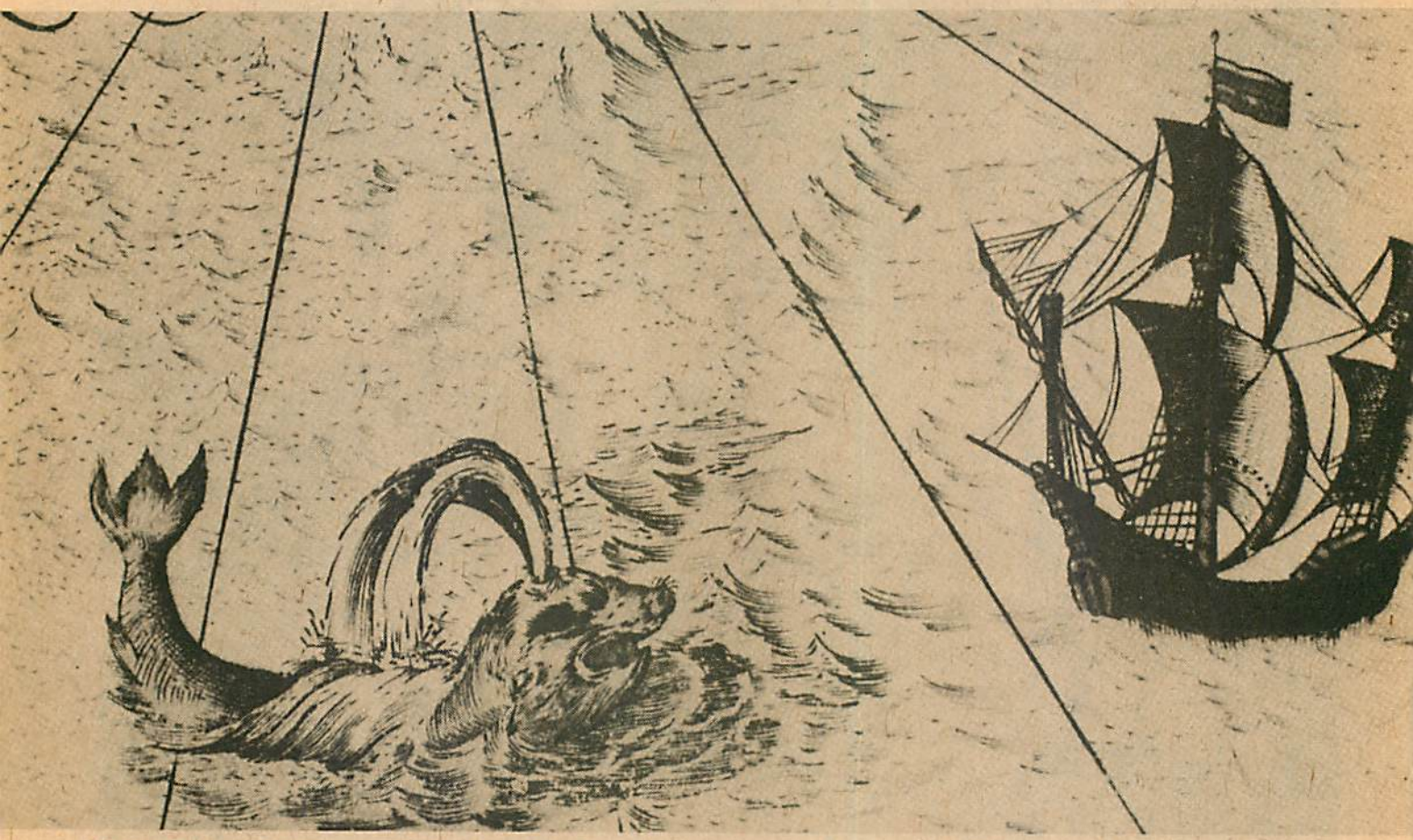


This huge Mola mola was caught on April 1, 1910, and could measure up in anyone's book as a monster.

The Century of SEA SERPENTS: 1800~1900

At no time in the history of the world were the seas so important. It was believed that the nation that ruled the seas would rule the world. But the true ruler of the seas was out there waiting, and the Age of Exploration became the Century of Sea Serpents!

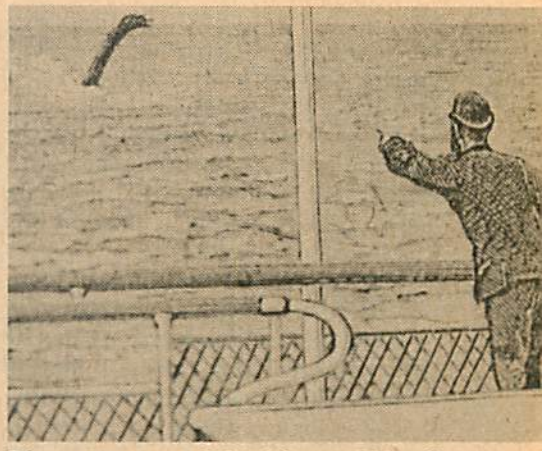
By Bruce A. Schaffenberger



Sea monsters were the terror of all sailors in the Age of Exploration.

■In the nineteenth century the seas represented the only connecting link between the expanding nations of the world. The seas could almost be considered as the natural highways of the earth. The Age of Exploration was well on its way and the nations that had the most access to these highways soon became world powers. Although the seas could be described as being the "natural highways of the earth," they were still strewn with unforeseen dangers which made the Age of Exploration also the Century of the Sea Serpents!

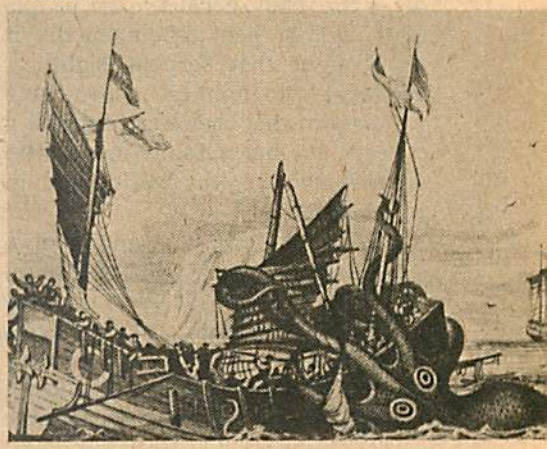
"The discovery of a strange sea creature near St. Elmo illustrates the truth of what I had remarked a few days earlier as to the smallness of our knowledge of the denizens of the mighty deep. The case is interesting not only in its bearing on the accounts of sea monsters of species as yet unknown, but also because it seems as though in the present case evidence of the existence of a tolerably numerous race of creatures had been obtained. To begin with, the account is not characterized by any evidence of an attempt to excite wonder by untruths.



Sea serpent was sighted from a ship off Baltimore in 1835.

The Age of Exploration also brought many new discoveries from the Sea and widened man's respect for the unknown!

Giant squid attacks English fleet in early 1800s.



The animal seen, though unlike any known, would not be in itself very marvelous. Omitting details of no importance, the account runs thus — While the boats of Capt. Seymour's barque, *Hope On*, were on the watch for whales off the Pearl Islands (between forty and fifty miles from Panama) the water broke a short distance away, and Capt. Seymour made ready for a whale. But a head like that of a horse rose from the water and then dived. The creature was seen by all the boat's crew. Capt. Seymour describes the animal as almost twenty feet in length, with a handsome horse-like head, with two unicorn-shaped horns protruding from it. The creature had four legs or double-jointed fins, a brownish hide, profusely speckled with large black spots, and a tail which appeared to be divided into parts. The creature was seen on two different days, and if whales had not been about at the time, an effort would have been made to catch it. Captain Seymour and his officers agree in considering that the creature is peculiar to the locality, and that it could easily be killed with lances and guns. It is important to notice that officers of the Pacific Mail Company state they have seen the animal on several occasions, but not so closely as did the officers and men of the *Hope On*.

"The nearest account of any strange animal akin to that seen by Captain Seymour and his men is the account of a marine creature, supposed to be a sea serpent, seen in 1817 near Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Eleven witnesses of good reputation gave on oath before magistrates—one of whom had himself seen what they had—a description of a creature like a serpent, dark brown in

color with white under the head and neck. The head of this creature was as large as a horse's, but shaped like a serpent's; and the animal was estimated as exceeding 50 feet in length. Colonel Perkins noticed an appearance in the front of the head like a single horn; but other observers thought this was the monster's tongue.

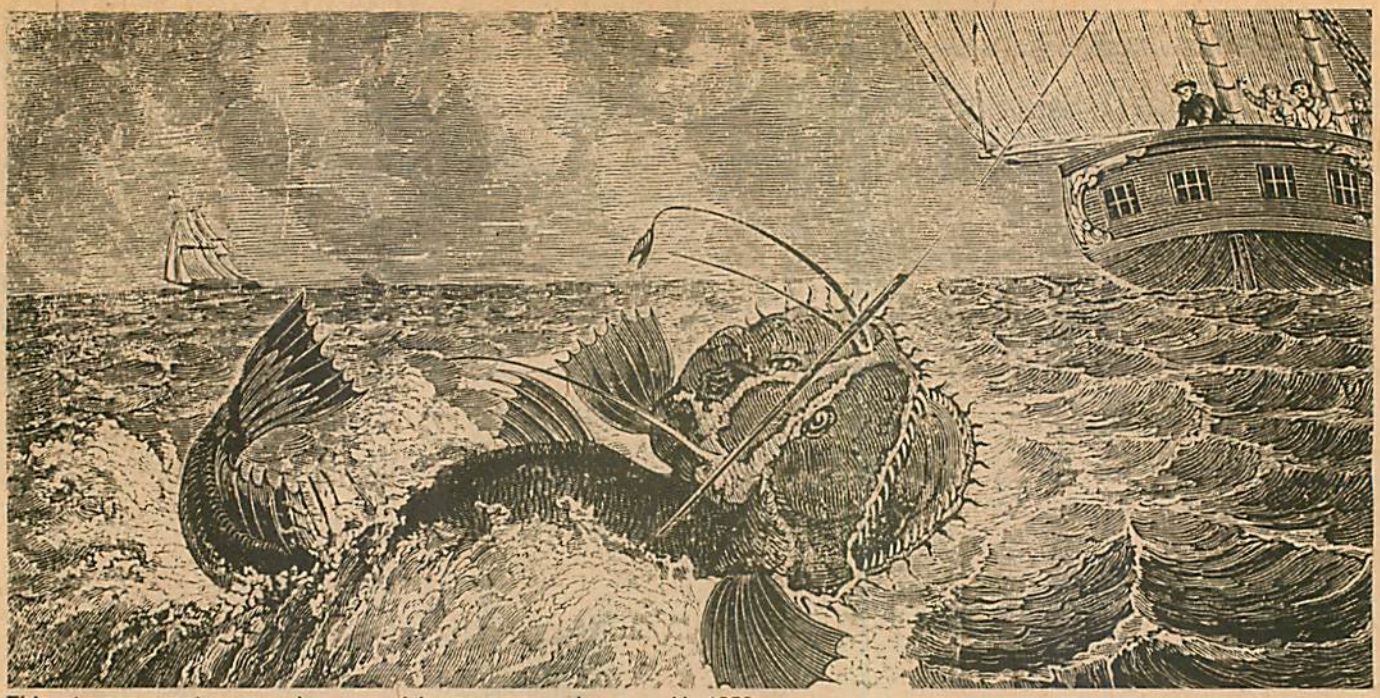
"The evidence now obtained confirms the theory which was advanced in 1848 and has since been maintained by Gosse and others, that a race of marine animal exists, including probably several varieties, which are characterized by a serpentine neck, a head small compared with the body, but large compared with the thickness of the neck, an air breather, and deriving its propulsive power from paddles—in other words, a modern representative of the long-necked plesiosaurians of the great secondary or Mesozoic era. Creatures of this class have been aptly compared to what would be formed by drawing a serpent through the body of a sea turtle."

This article appeared in a publication known as **Knowledge** in 1883, and was written by a man named Richard Proctor. It establishes the fact that sea serpents were a very real part of the lives of sea farers and the general populace alike during the latter part of the 19th Century. But during the early part of the 1800s, because most people still thought of them as being myths, it was thought that serpent sightings were very few in number. It soon came to be known that they were not just a scattered few but actually many were occurring all over the world, and in great numbers.

One of the earliest accounts of a sighting was written by Rev. Abraham Cummings in 1802. "It was sometime in July 1802 that we saw this extraordinary sea monster, on our passage to Belfast, between Cape Rosoi and Long Island. His first appearance was near Long Island. I then supposed it to be a large shoal of fish with a seal at one end of it, but wondered that the seal should rise out of the water so much higher than usual; but, as he drew nearer to our boat, we soon discovered that this whole appearance was but one animal in the form of a serpent. I immediately perceived that his mode of swimming was exactly such as had been described to me by some of the people on Fox Islands, who had seen an animal of this kind before, which must confirm the veracity of their report. For this creature had not the horizontal but an ascending and descending serpentine motion. This renders it highly probable that he never moves on land to any considerable distance and that the water is his proper element. His head was rather larger than that of a horse, but formed like that of a serpent. His body we judged was more than sixty feet in length. His head and as much of his body as we could discover was all of a blue color except a black circle around his eye. His motion was at first but moderate, but when he left us and proceeded towards the ocean, he moved with the greatest rapidity. This monster is the sixth of the kind, if our information be correct, which has been seen in this bay within the term of eighteen years. Mrs. Cummings, my daughter and Miss Martha Spring were with me in the boat at that time, and can attest to the above description."

Spanish explorers fire on sea serpent off the coast of South America.

The United States was especially noted for rash encounters with these serpents. During 1818, stories of seeing strange serpents were being heard all along the eastern coast line from the upper part of New England down to Boston. In a letter to the editor of the **Boston Centinel,** Cheever Felch, captain of the United States ship *Independence* of 74 guns, wrote this description of a sea monster that his ship had come upon in 1819. "Being on this station, in the United States schooner *Science*, for the purpose of surveying this harbor, we were proceeding this morning down the harbor, in the schooner's boat; when abreast of Dallivan's Neck, William T. Malbone, Esq., commander of the schooner, seeing some appearance on the water, said, "There is your sea serpent," meaning it as a laugh on me for believing in its existence; but it proved to be no joke. The animal was then between thirty and forty yards distance from us. Mr. Malbone, Midshipman Blake, myself and our four boatmen, had a distinct view of him. He soon sunk; but not so deep but we could trace his course. He rose again within twenty yards distance of us, and lay some time on the water. He then turned, and steered for Ten Pound Island; we pulled after him; but finding that he was not pleased with the noise of our oars, they were laid in, and the boat skulled. We again approached very near him. He continued some length of time, plying between Ten



This strange creature was harpooned by an ocean-going vessel in 1856.

Sea monster about to attack English sailing ship in 1867.

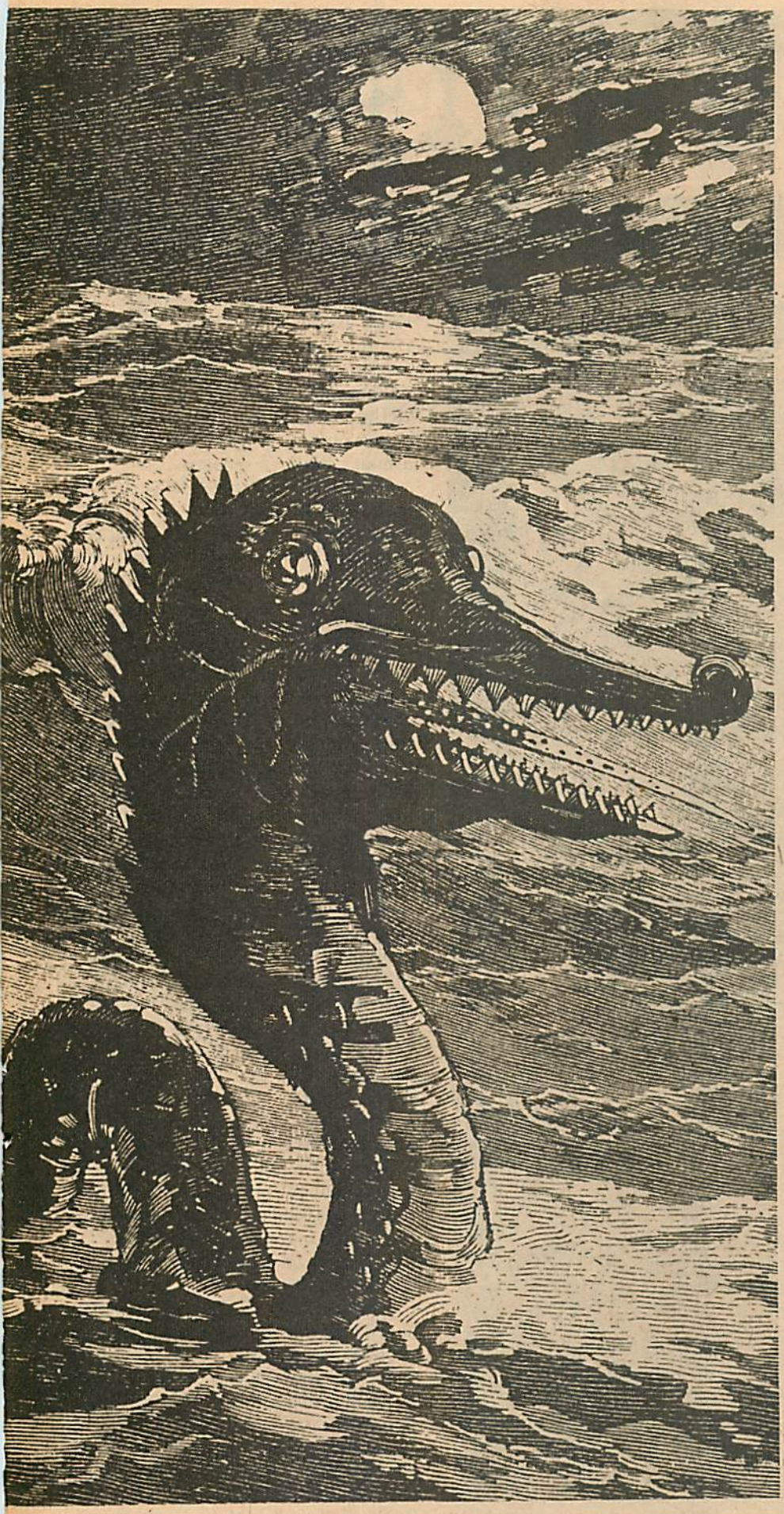
Pound Island and Stage Point. As he often came near the point we thought we could get a better view of him there, than from the boat, of which he seemed suspicious. Mr. Malbone and myself landed; and the boat was sent to order the schooner down, for the purpose of trying what effect a twelve pound cannonade would have upon him. He did not remain long after we landed, so that I was unable to effect my intention, of ascertaining, accurately, his length with my instruments. From my knowledge of aquatic animals and habits of intimacy with marine appearances, I could not be deceived. We had a good view of him, except the very short period while he was under water, for half an hour.

"His color is a dark brown with white under the throat. His size, we could not accurately ascertain, but his head is about three feet in circumference, flat and much smaller than his body. We did not see his tail; but from the end of the head to the fartherest protuberance, was not far from one hundred feet. I speak with a degree of certainty, from being much accustomed to measure and estimate distances and length. I counted fourteen bunches on his back, the first one, say ten or twelve feet from his head, and the others about seven feet apart. They decreased in size towards the tail. These bunches were sometimes counted with, and sometimes without, a glass. Mr. Malbone counted thirteen, Mr. Blake thirteen and fourteen, and the boatmen about the same number. His motion was sometimes very rapid, and at other times he lay nearly still. He turned slowly, and took up considerable room in doing it. He sometimes darted under water, with greatest velocity, as if seizing prey. The protuberances were not from his motion, as they were the same whether in slow or rapid movement. His motion was partly vertical and partly horizontal, like that of fresh water snakes. I have been much acquainted with the snakes in our interior waters. His motion was the same. I have given you in round numbers, one hundred feet, for his length; that is, what we saw; but I should say he must be one hundred and thirty feet in length, allowing for his tail. There were a considerable number of birds about the sea serpent, as I have seen them about a snake on shore. That there is an aquatic animal in the form of a snake, is not to be doubted. Mr. Malbone, till this day, was incredulous. No man would now

(Continued on page 64)

A giant squid attacked the French ship *Alecton* in November 1861.

Throughout man's recorded history, sea monsters have been sighted in every ocean of the world, and most of the sketches we have today were based on the drawings of eyewitnesses.



A Scientist Looks At Sea Monsters

By Dr. Harold G. Gluck

Some scientists profess to be open-minded about the sea monster question, while others, like the author of this article, are true believers because they have seen such creatures with their own eyes!

■My first experience with a sea monster took place some thirty years ago. We were fishing off the North Atlantic coast in a party boat. It was a pleasant, cool day and the sea was fairly smooth, which counted for the fact that none of us aboard were seasick.

The boat moved from one location to another, looking always for the spot where we would hit a school of fish. It was about two in the afternoon that one of the fisherman shouted at the top of his voice:

"Look over there! It's a sea monster. You can see its body breaking through the waves. And what a head it has. Who has a camera?"

We all did the wrong and foolish thing by rushing over to his side of the boat. And the captain yelled like hell to get back to our side. I saw something in the water. Looked like some kind of a big fish with humps on its back. And twice I got a glimpse of its ugly face. I cast my line and so did others in its direction. What a haul that would have been!

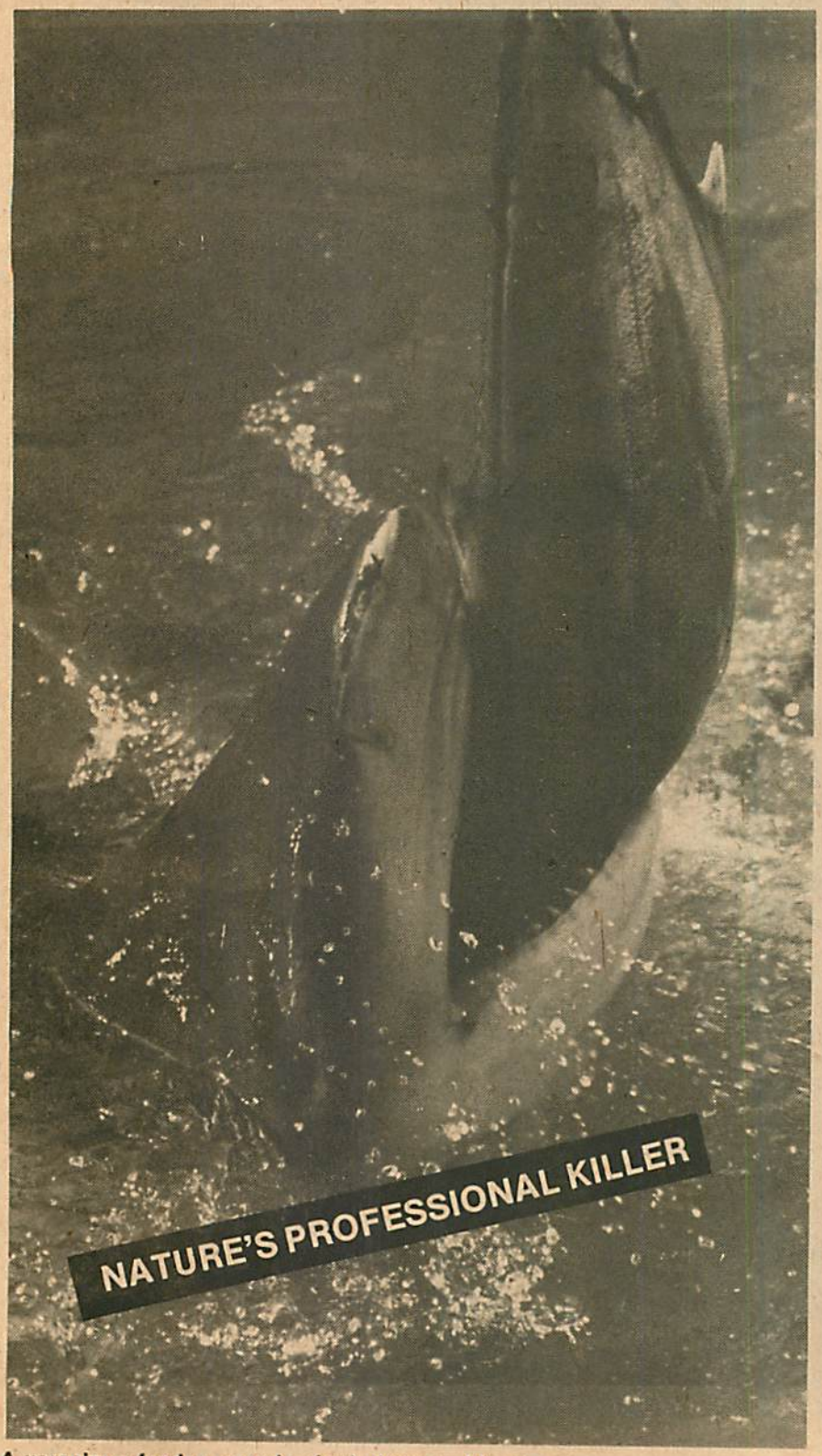
But the captain of the boat was an experienced and somewhat bored man.

"I doubt that you saw a real sea monster," he said. "Probably a very large conger eel breaking water, which would give the effect of having humps on its back."

Alas, none of us hooked into the creature. Now two months passed by, and while out for a walk one weekend, I met Bill and some of his friends. Bill

(Continued on page 66)

KILLERS OF



A voracious feeder, greedy shark devours his prey.

■ Ugly, vicious and terrifying, the shark is the most feared and hated creature of the deep. He is a cold-blooded killer who strikes with unbelievable swiftness, tearing at his victims with razor sharp teeth that can gouge out huge hunks of flesh or sever a man's limbs in seconds.

Usually, he attacks in a frenzy, maddened and attracted to his helpless prey by some sixth sense that still continues to mystify researchers into his erratic and unpredicable behavior.

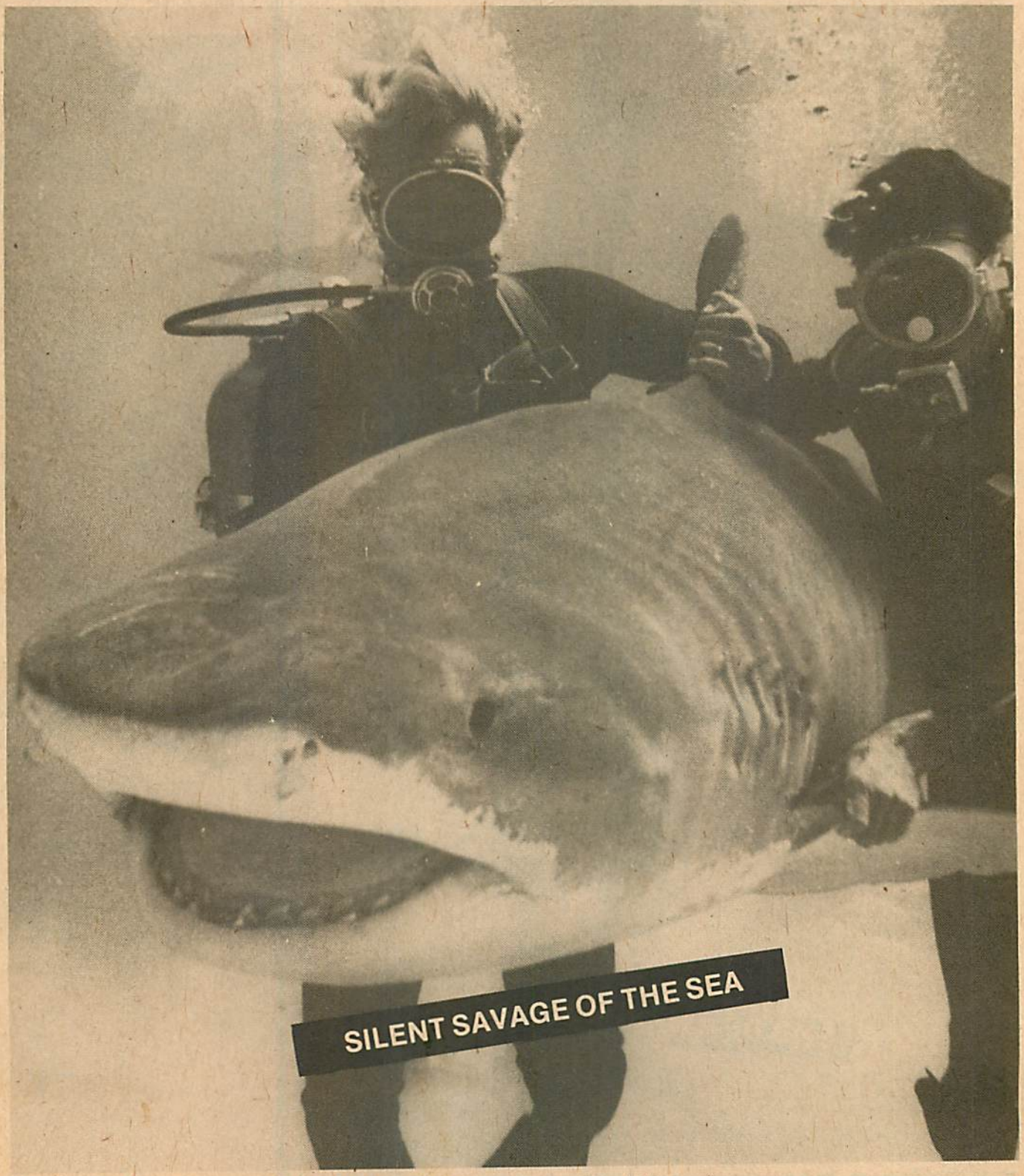
Those who have miraculously survived the murderous attacks of sharks are often understandably vague about their traumatic encounters. It is difficult for them to accurately recount those terrifying moments when they suddenly found themselves in the vise-like jaws of these man-eaters. There is a sort of unreality about it, and most find it a nightmare too horrible to relive—a hellish experience that often sends the victim into shock.

There are three hundred different types of sharks, and since the beginning of time, many of them have preyed upon man. Of the fifty different species who have ripped out the entrails of humans, the most dangerous are the White shark, the Mako shark, the Bull shark, the Lemon shark, the Tiger shark, the Dusky shark, the Blue shark, the Hammerhead shark, the Sand shark, and the White-tipped shark.

They have all left a bloody trail throughout history. Sharks are reported to have followed the old slave ships like loathsome scavengers, feeding on the corpses of dead blacks who were thrown overboard.

However, of all the documented shark attacks on man, two thirds have occurred since 1940. One rather grim theory for these figures is that sharks suddenly developed, a more pronounced taste for human flesh as a result of the tens of thousands of men who became victims of the sea during the Second World War. Of the 2,603 merchant ships sunk in the Atlantic, 30,000 men became shark

THE DEEP



Drugged Tiger shark is easily handled by divers for role in James Bond film.

bait. An additional 28,000 men perished in their sunken U-boats, and in the Pacific, over 5,000 men went to watery graves and presumably into the ugly bellies of the carnivorous sharks.

Perhaps one of the most tragic and terrifying stories of sharks preying on helpless seamen occurred during the Second World War when the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine.

The *Indianapolis* had been on a

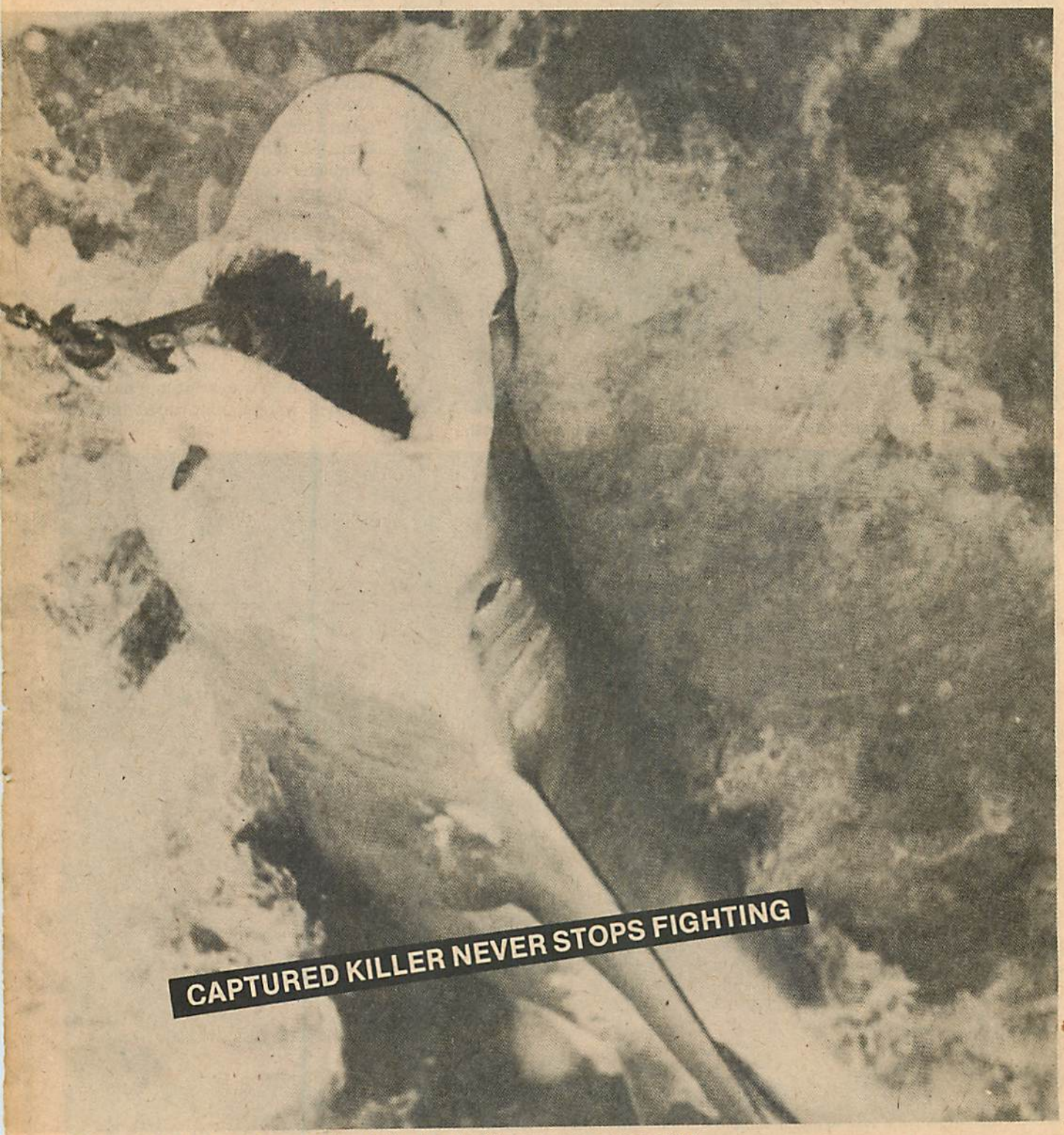
END OF A MARAUDER

Huge Hammerhead shark caught off coast of Florida is grotesque and deadly

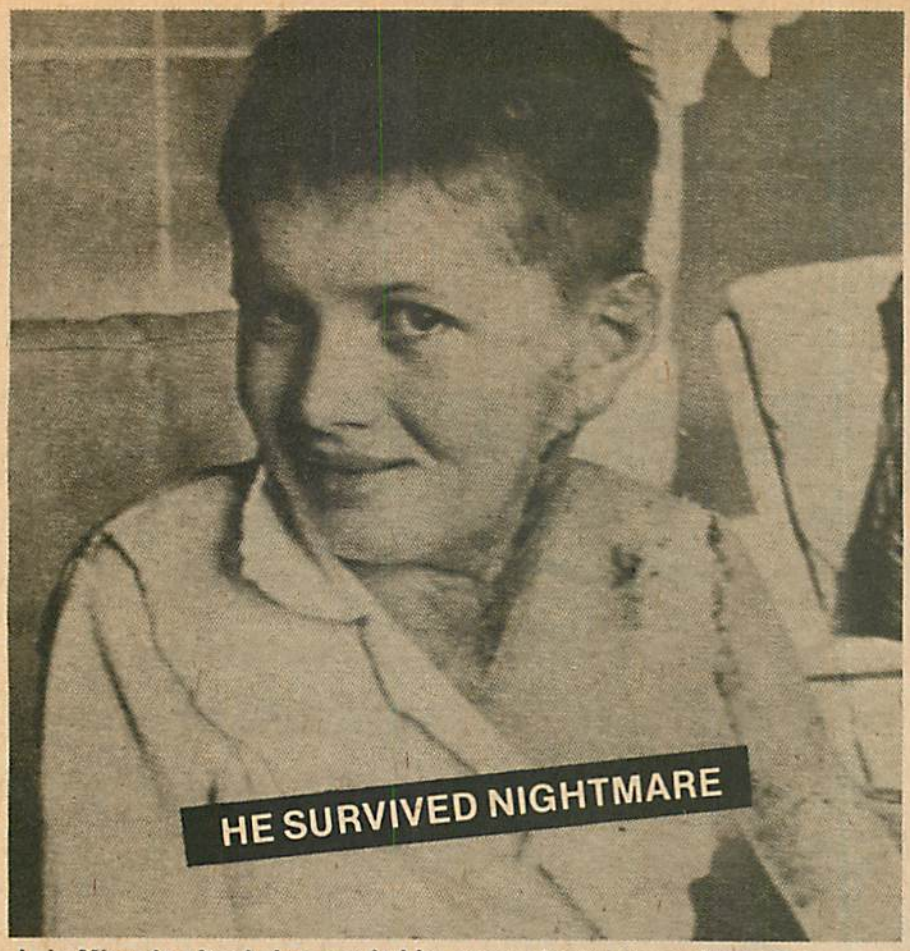
secret mission, delivering the atomic bomb to Tinian Island. From there, it would be flown and dropped on Hiroshima. The *Indianapolis* made its historic delivery and still under sealed orders, was proceeding to Leyte when just a few minutes after midnight on June 29th 1945 the war suddenly ended for the men of the cruiser and a new more deadly war of survival began.

Taking two crippling hits by torpedoes, the *Indianapolis* was on her way to the bottom in just a few minutes. There had been almost twelve hundred men on the cruiser when she was attacked. Those who lived to tell their harrowing story, estimate that there were about nine hundred men still alive, bobbing about in the water, wearing life-jackets.

The survivors were in the water less than an hour when the first sharks began to arrive, their dorsal fins cutting through the water, coming closer and closer to the terrified men. Many were wounded, and their blood seeping into the sea had apparently attracted the deadly scavengers. The men tried to save each other, bunching together for protection and beating the water in a vain effort to frighten off the fearsome creatures. Still, the sharks bore in, each one of their attacks punctuated by the un-



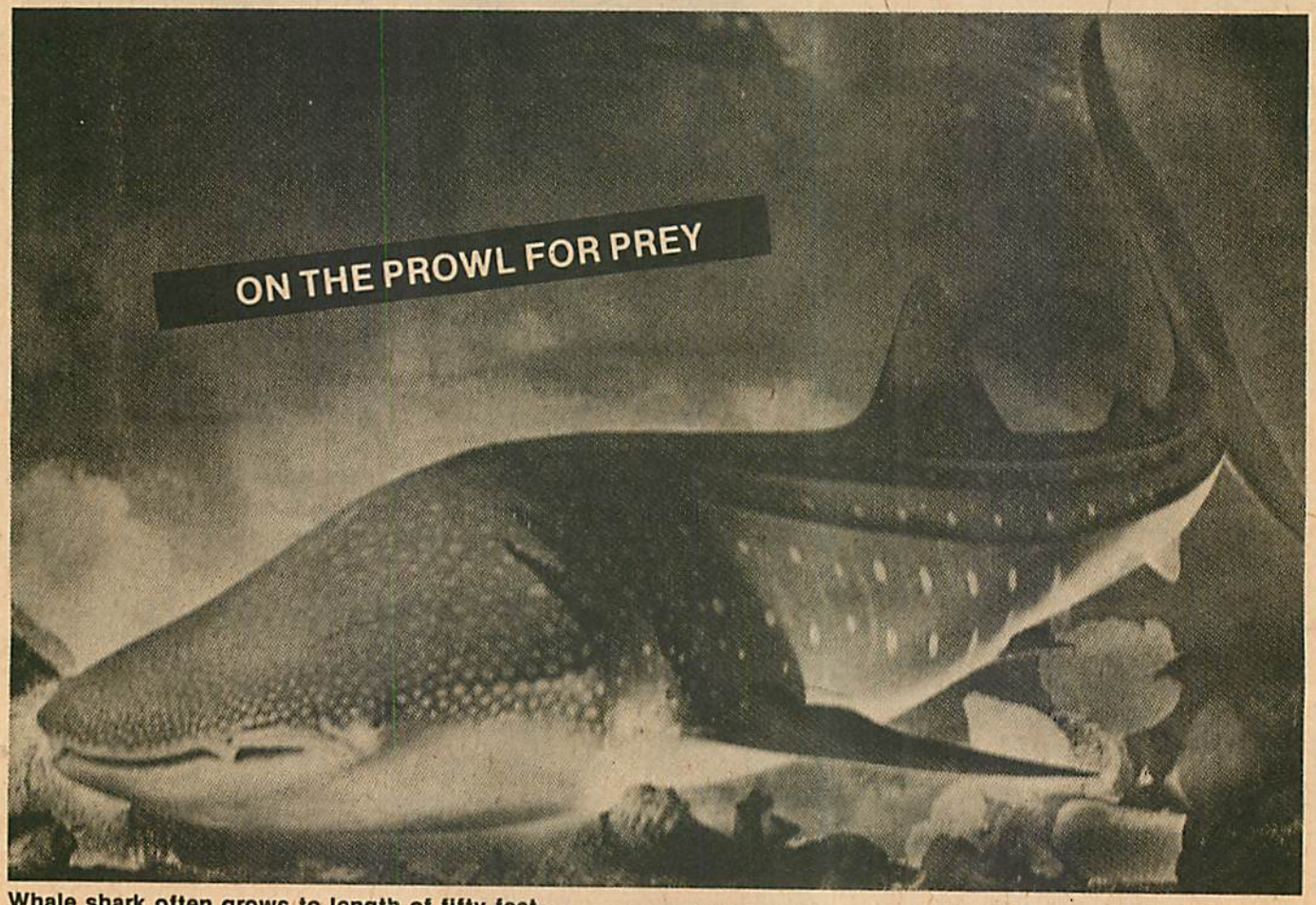
Tiger shark still full of fight after being hooked is dangerous man-eater



Luis Miranda after being mauled by angry shark's razor-sharp teeth.

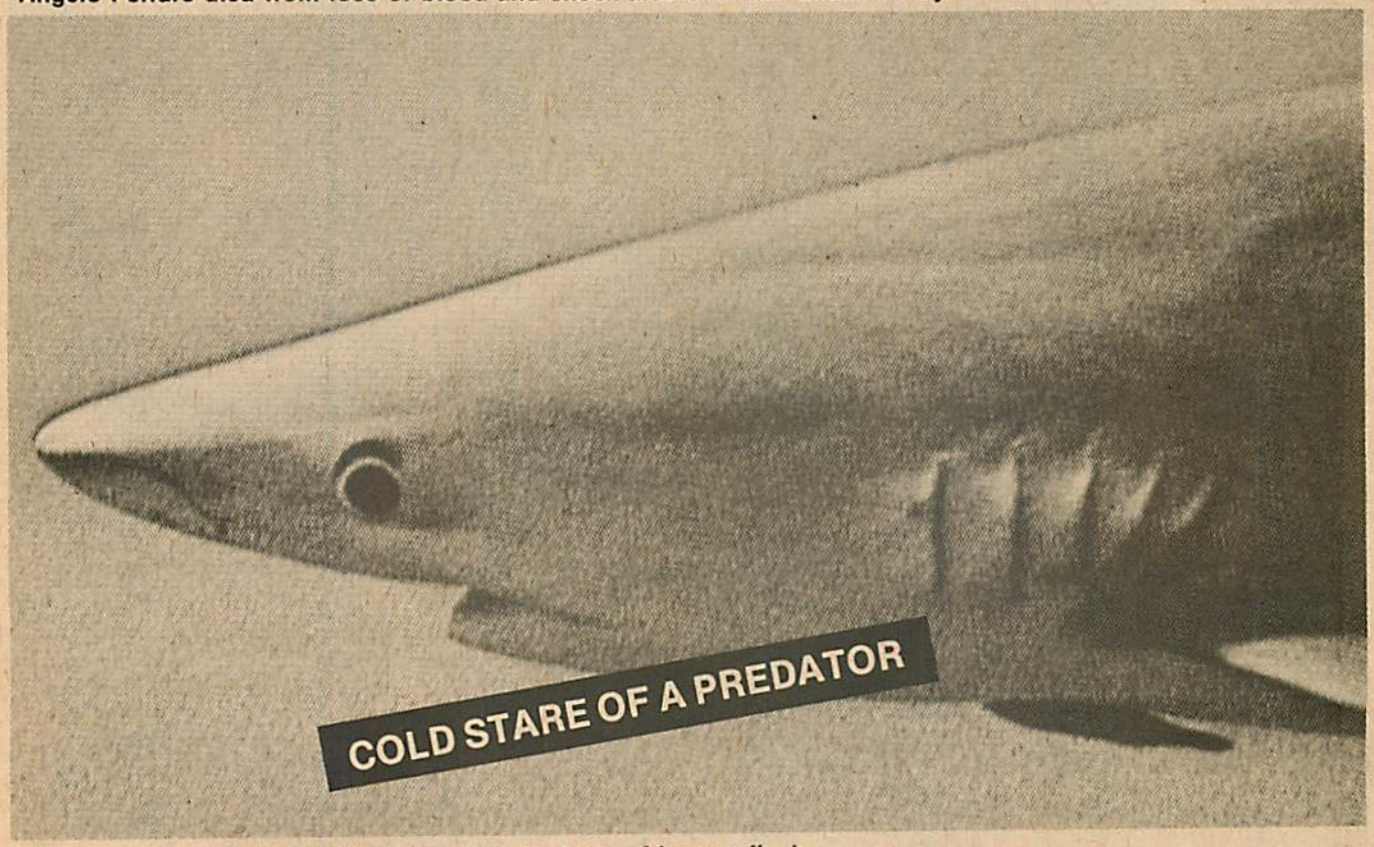
earthly scream of the man who suddenly found himself in the jaws of the man-eater. Then the water would be churned blood red as chunks of flesh were torn from the crewman. It was, as some recall, an unbelievable nightmare, more terrifying than any horror movie Hollywood might ever devise. Over one hundred American sailors perished that night, dragged beneath the surface of the sea by the monster fish. One survivor recalled that he had noticed the man next to him slumped over with part of his head in the water. Thinking that his companion had fallen asleep, the sailor reached over to nudge him awake, when the body upended in the water, the survivor saw to his horror that the other crewman had been completely cut in half below the waist by hungry sharks.

The carnage continued with the sharks taking a deadly toll. About every twenty-four hours, another hundred men perished. Finally, by noon of the fifth day, the remaining survivors were spotted by a plane and picked up by the destroyer escort U.S.S. Cecil C. Doyle. Of the nine hundred men who went into the shark infested waters, only three hundred



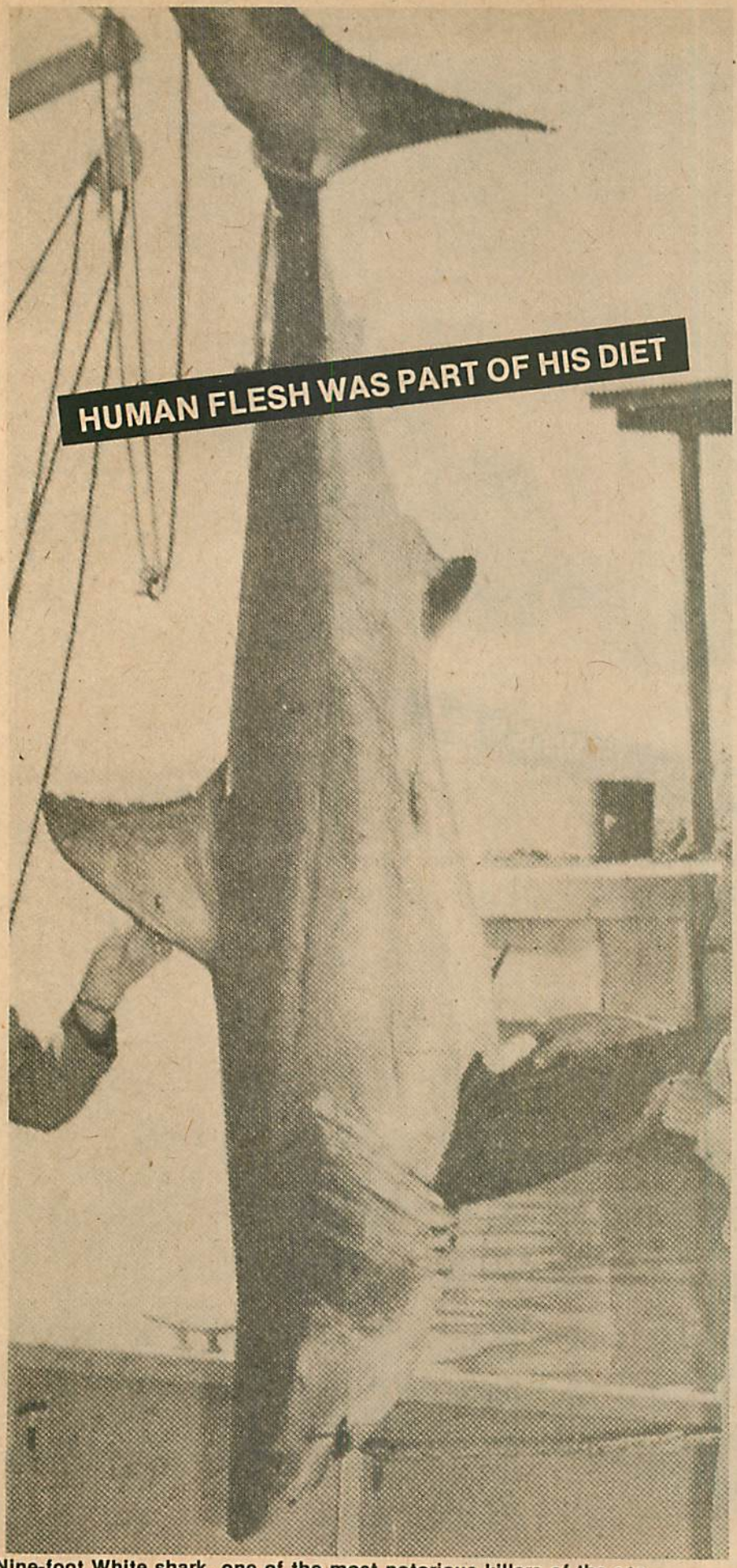
Whale shark often grows to length of fifty feet.

Angelo Ferraro died from loss of blood and shock after arm was bitten off by man-eater.



Blue shark is a ferocious killer who likes the taste of human flesh.

HUMAN FLESH WAS PART OF HIS DIET



Nine-foot White shark, one of the most notorious killers of the sea.

and fifteen lived to talk about their terrifying experience.

This is another reason why, some theorize, that sharks prefer male victims to female victims by a ratio of eight to one.

One of the last relics of prehistoric monsters, the shark is one of the oldest inhabitants of the sea and he has changed little over the past one hundred million years. One species, the Cladoselacne, made his first appearance three hundred million years ago, and he was a formidable creature more than one hundred feet in length.

In spite of man's determined efforts to kill this hateful monster, the shark has still managed to hold his own in the war of survival. They range in size from one foot in length to over sixty feet and many have tipped the scales at well over fifteen tons.

Restless, forever prowling the sea in search of food, the killer sharks never cease their endless journey through the murky deeps. They are doomed to keep perpetually on the move. Should they ever stop, they will quickly sink to the bottom and drown.

From the moment of birth, sharks are thrust into an undersea world where instant death is a way of life and they are forced to fend for themselves.

MAULED BY SHARK

Brian Foley survived vicious shark attack.

Someday... research may conquer CEREBRAL PALSY.

Think about that the next time you're asked to

Give to
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

MYSTERIOUS WATER MONSTERS OF NORTH AMERICA

(Continued from page 25)

Ogopogo for about ten minutes when they suddenly realized the creature seemed bent on capsizing their small craft. "We got the impression that we were crowding its territory and that it was upset. The wave it made in the water was really substantial. We were afraid to get too close."

BEAST OF LAFAYETTE LAKE

Although in size and stature he was no Loch Ness monster, the beast of Lafayette Lake in Southern California is just about as menacing as his European cousin.

First seen in October of 1975, the creature caused such a stir that the 114-acre lake and adjoining reservoir were closed to both boaters and swimmers alike.

Because of the persistence of reports (the creature was said to be ten feet long and scaly—"sort of in the shape of an alligator, but not really"), police sought to get at least a glimpse of the "what-is-it" by sending up helicopters to fly low over the lake. However, no creature would surface for the authorities' benefit, and quite soon word spread that the monster was either a hoax or merely a large, hungry fish (hungry for notoriety, or for swimmers, no one would venture to say). Said Paul Fletcher, spokesman for the East Bay Water District, which administers the lake area, "We found no monster—alligator or not. But that's not saying there isn't one—we just couldn't find it!"

The question is, when will *it* surface again?

PINKY

Florida's St. John's River has a monster, too.

Pinky, so-called because his skin is the color of boiled shrimp, has been seen roaming the waterways for several years, according to the Florida Marine Patrol, who tell the curious that what they've seen is nothing more than a sea sturgeon. But eyewitness accounts, from credible persons, seem to negate this theory.

Take the case of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abrams, who were out in the St. John's River with three of their friends. In June of 1972 they all observed *something* in the water which they will never forget. But let Dorothy Abrams tell us what she saw in her own words:

"It was about 10 a.m. A storm was approaching and so we decided to head for the shore. Pulling up anchor, we started the motor. The boat turned, and there he was. The creature's head was about the size or maybe larger than a human head. He turned his head like you and I would. He had little horns—well, they weren't very little—like a snail, with little knobs on the end. He looked like a skeleton. He was really jagged-looking. On the sides of his head were flaps, I guess, some kind of gills, hanging down. About three feet of his neck was out of the water. His mouth was turned down at the edges and he had big, dark, slanted eyes."

One of the other women on the Abrams' boat, Brenda Langley, called it "the ugliest thing I'd ever seen in my life. I thought, 'My God, what's that?' It was checking us out. It was really curious as to what we were."

The creature finally disappeared by diving under the water. "He just went under. It was like you were in the water and bent your head down," Mrs. Abrams explained. The witnesses noted that he was heading for the wide-open sea.

Other sightings were made the same week, including a report from an Atlanta businessman. Also surfacing was the fact that a woman living on the river had seen something "quite similar" more than twenty years before. The Coast Guard was called in to help, but they admitted being stumped. "We don't have anyone in charge of monster investigations," a spokesman wisecracked.

THE SHADOWY GIANT OF NORTH FORK

Dozens of people saw and *heard* it, but no one knows what the creature might be. Residents along the north fork of the St. Lucie River in Florida are puzzled by a mysterious "visitor" that has seemingly made itself at home in the waters of their community.

According to newspaperman Douglas Butler of the **Stuart News,** sightings of an unidentified thirty-foot "aquatic creature" go back to May of 1975. Butler says that the first witness, Mrs. Dimiter Stoyanoff, spotted the mammoth-sized creature while fishing on the dock near her home. She said she and a neighbor were talking when all of a sudden they heard a blowing-gurgling sound.

"We turned around and saw between two pilings, which are about thirty feet apart, a brownish-grey object. At first I thought it was a manatee, but it was too long and too big." Mrs. Stoyanoff insists that the creature only stayed on the surface for a few moments and then sank back into the water.

The **Stuart News**, which carried a running account of the creature's appearance, said another eyewitness was Mrs. R.J. Haas, who lived along Murphy Road. "I saw it from about forty feet away and at first it looked like a boat coming out of the water. Then, as it surfaced, I saw fish leaping into the air, and there was a lot of water turbulence surrounding the creature."

Mrs. Addie Shaw, a house maid, added, "I've never seen anything like it before."

From the descriptions we can see why!

Douglas Butler emphasizes: "One thing is for certain, something is swimming in the north fork of the St. Lucie River that has the local residents gazing into the waters in search of something large and mysterious."

We wonder what that "something" might be.

THE WHITE RIVER MONSTER

As far as is known, the town of Newport, Arkansas, is the first community to officially acknowledge the existence of a sea serpent. The city fathers have designated the White River, between a southern point known as Old Grand Glaize and a north point on the White River known as Rosie, as the natural habitat of the White River Monster. They have made it a sanctuary for the creature, noting, "that it is illegal to molest, kill, trample, or otherwise harm the mon-

ster while he is in the above retreat."

First seen by the Indians hundreds of years ago, the White River monster first surfaced in 1937, causing nationwide publicity at the time. One man, W.E. Penix, said it was as long as "three automobiles."

More modern observations place the length of the creature at forty feet, and shaped like a giant eel.

Whatever the creature may be, chances are it will be safe as long as it resides in the White River. If anyone tries to harm it, they will find the law not to be overly friendly.

Congratulations, Newport, for being so thoughtful!

THE MONSTER OF LAKE CONWAY

No search for existing, modern-day creatures of the deep would be complete without including the monster that stalks Lake Conway, in Arkansas.

First seen twenty years ago when the lake was damned, the beast has been shot at and grappled by the hooks of fishermen.

A report in the **Log Cabin Democrat,** in April of 1953, tells the story of a carpenter living east of the lake who fired two shots at the back of the monster's head. And, although he refused to be identified by name, the individual told the newspaper that he was casting for bass in shallow water when he noticed a stirring motion in the water some distance away. The "motion" moved closer to his boat, then past it to a distance of approximately forty feet and then back again. Suddenly, the water became still, and an enormous "head" popped out of the lake. It had no hair, only dark brown, frog-like skin. The witness said he could see no ears nor eyes, and it did not move. Cocking his .32 caliber pistol, the frightened man fired once. The bullet went high. The animal remained still, and the man fired again, whereupon the monster thrashed about for a moment and then disappeared beneath the surface of the lake.

Some months later, a 13-year-old Conway boy was fishing out on Brannon's Landing. He had cast his line into the water and was waiting for a fish to bite. He didn't have long to wait, as something took hold of his hook and immediately began tugging. Whatever it was on the other end of that line was so strong that the teenager lost his grip and the rod, reel and line were yanked out of his hands and vanished beneath the brine in large, frothy waves. Earlier, another fisherman had reeled in his catch only to find a hideous face looking up at him from the end of his fishing line. The creature paid his respects and simply disappeared, all in a matter of seconds. The fisherman was glad the sea serpent hadn't stayed around any longer—his heart might not have been able to stand the strain.

Joe Mosby, who writes a regular standing column for the **Arkansas Gazette,** recently reported on the return of the monster. He claims that a relative of someone who works on his newspaper told him that the creature "splashed around near his boat and raised up out of the water. It was of a dark color, probably brown, but marked by noticeable orange spots. Its head was rounded and with little or no visible neck."

A short while ago, State Senator Guy Jones introduced a bill in the legislature that called for a sign to be erected on the highway, pointing the way to Lake Conway. He had hoped to make the spot a tourist attraction. The bill was defeated, but the monster sightings continue nevertheless.

And so it goes. . .a review of existing data lends substantial weight to the likelihood that sea serpents truly exist in our own neck of the woods. Quite obviously sincere and credible witnesses have observed creatures in the water that are incredible to our rational way of thinking. Scientists profoundly argue that they do not exist. However, many people from first-hand encounters know they *do!* Perhaps, in addition to the research being conducted at Loch Ness, someday someone will take an interest in our own sea monsters and decide to check them out.

We hope they do! ●

IS CREEPING POLLUTION ATTRACTING GIANT SEA MONSTERS TO OUR SHORES?

(Continued from page 34)

and submerged. He contends he has never made a public announcement of his experience because he does not choose to risk the scorn and ridicule of scoffers.

Item: In 1962, while skin diving with three companions off the coast of Florida, Edward McCleary reported having been attacked by a tremendous green-eyed, serpentine-bodied sea animal whose most grotesque characteristic was a turtle-shaped head. McCleary's account could not be confirmed because by the time the attack ended, his three friends were dead.

Item: The fishing boat *Dana,* operating out of Vancouver Island, returned to port towing the skeletal remains of a 50-foot-long sea serpent whose vertebrae were as much as six inches in diameter. The animal's skull bore an uncanny likeness to a goat's head.

Item: As far back as 1848, in the archives of the Naval Historical Foundation in Washington, D.C., are accounts of North Atlantic sea serpents which appeared in the October issue of the **Illustrated London News.** I have studied these accounts and find that in most details they are similar to current sightings. Because of this and the fact that the older monsters were found in much deeper water than the present-day ones, one can only believe that a shoreward migration of sea-serpents is now under way.

Although the tendency has always been to debunk the unknown because that is the easiest way, every scientific rationale indicates that sea serpents do exist, that they are living fossils and that they date back in ecological history at least to the days of the giant dinosaurs.

The underwater explorations of Jacques Cousteau, noted French oceanologist, prove beyond a doubt that the world's seas are far more hospitable to life of all varieties than are the earth's land masses. Cousteau is the first to agree that despite recent advances in ocean sciences, man remains ignorant of forms of animal life which populate the deeper and more inaccessible reaches of ocean floors.

However, what is known about the planet's natural history gives overwhelming support to theories concerning unbelievably huge sea serpents.

Every earth scientist to whom I've talked agrees that animal life, as we know it, developed in the sea. Only when these sea animals crawled up onto land in search of food and stayed there, effecting the mutations which allowed them to adjust to a non-water environment, did the land masses become populated. Over the course of eons, gills gave way to lungs, and the species which had crawled on their bellies grew legs to aid their locomotion.

Not all animals made the total adjustment. This was particularly true of the era of the giant dinosaurs. Brachtosaurus and Brontosaurus had grown rather short stumpty legs for use on land. Their necks had become elongated, affording them an opportunity to forage for their food from the over-hanging branches of trees.

But weight remained their greatest problem and they spent just about all of their lives standing in water so that they could benefit from its buoyancy.

For all their fearsome appearance, the giants disappeared. Some say they did not all die out—many species returned to the sea from whence they'd come.

Today there is no land animal to match the staggering size of the killer whale or the giant squid. Yet in the sea's protective surroundings, killer whales grow to more than 30 feet in length and know no natural enemies other than man's rapacious harpoon. And the giant squid's tentacles probe as much as 250 feet as its suction cups seek out food.

There can be no doubt that underwater conditions nurture gigantic creatures. That giant sea serpents have taken on bizarre and grotesque characteristics is not that strange. If they were less shy and were seen more frequently, they would not appear quite so fantastic or absurd.

Certainly a 40 or 50-foot-long serpent with a skull which is two feet wide isn't that much larger than a 25 or 30 foot Annaconda (which populates the impenetrable jungle of the Orinoco and can swallow and digest an entire pig in one gulp.)

And now with the thermal, organic and chemical pollution which man is pumping into his coastal areas—particularly those which mark the borders of the United States—we stand at the brink of greater discoveries of sea serpents who will undoubtedly wriggle their undulating girth right onto our continental shelves.

In so doing, they will destroy forever the myths which surround them, myths based on ignorance and a refusal to accept the unknown.

Just what impact they will have on our environment remains to be seen. But whatever the outcome may be, man must take the responsibility for their arrival along our coasts upon his own shoulders.

It is man who has caused important climactic changes by heating the air over his coastal metropolises.

It is man who has dumped his refuse and his garbage within less than a mile of his own coastline, thus altering the feeding habits and life cycles of marine life.

It is man who has created the radioactivity which spills into his rivers and streams and runs down the inland waterways to the sea where it can cause as yet unknown mutations to aquatic animals.

And it is the American with the world's highest standard of living and the disposal problems brought about by a life of plenty who, for better or worse, is attracting the sea serpent to him, just as he has the mako and great white shark. ●

THE WATER MONSTER BOOK SHELF

(Continued on page 9)

Loch Morar has never gotten the attention Ness has—it's more of the tourist track, you see—and this book is the only account of the regrettably small-scale work done there. But Mrs. Campbell and her associate, David Solomon, have done a fine job of assembling and evaluating the evidence. There seems little reason not to believe that Loch Morar contains a number of large aquatic unknowns.

Tim Dinsdale, whose movie footage was mentioned earlier, has written several books on Loch Ness and other water monsters; two have seen print in the U.S. **Loch Ness Monster** (Chilton Books, Philadelphia, 1962) is a gripping and highly personal account of how one man became caught up in the hunt for a "mythical" creature and acquired believable evidence that no one in the scientific establishment would accept. **Monster Hunt** (Acropolis Books Ltd., Washington, D.C., 1972) is an enlarged version of his earlier **The Leviathans** (published in England in 1966) and deals with both fresh- and salt-water monsters. It tries, I think, to cover a bit too much and winds up, at times, being frustratingly sketchy in some areas. But it is a good starting point, particularly for those of your friends who tend to dismiss the whole idea of water monsters as nonsense.

Earlier works by other authors, each of which throws a slightly different light on the water monster topic, include: F.W. Holiday's **The Great Orm of Loch Ness** (W.W. Norton & Co., NYC, 1969) which opts for giant invertebrates as the source of monster reports; Maurice Burton's **The Elusive Monster** (Rupert Hart-Davis, London, 1961), an artfully contrived but highly unsuccessful attempt to debunk the topic; and Constance Whyte's **More Than a Legend** (Hamish Hamilton, London, 1957) which, despite all that we have learned since it first appeared, remains a well-written and quietly persuasive book.

Technically oriented monster buffs will find **Underwater Search at Loch Ness,** a monograph published a few years ago by the Academy of Applied Science (which has been conducting research at the Loch for the past several years), of considerable interest. It details the camera and sonar equipment being used by the Academy and outlines the problems inherent in working in the chilly, murky waters of the Loch. Copies may still be obtainable through the Bigfoot Information Centre, P.O. Box 632, The Dalles, Oregon 97058. (The Centre operates on a *very* limited budget, so when you write please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply. And tell them I sent you.)

Now. . .this is a magazine about sea monsters and I have spent a lot of space on fresh-water monsters. Why? Simple. There is not much written material, by comparison with lake monsters, on sea monsters. But what there is, is very good indeed.

The book on sea monsters is Bernard Heuvelmans' **In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents** (Hill & Wang, NYC, 1968) which has not been equalled, or even challenged, since it appeared. It is a massive, but extremely readable, treatise on the great sea serpent.

For starters, in a chapter that is a condensation of his book on the giant squid (and I wish someone would publish *that* in English!), Dr. Heuvelmans traces the history of the fabled kraken from the myths of hundreds of years ago to its eventual, though reluctant, acceptance by science. The history of the giant squid is most instructive to a study of the sea-serpent, and by placing it at the beginning of his book, Heuvelmans sets the tone for the serious study that follows.

Like the scientist he is, Heuvelmans has gone about his research with patience, thoroughness and a skeptical open-mindedness. He has reviewed, in as much detail as possible, every available report of an unknown ocean creature, whether sighted at sea or cast upon the shore. In all, over 500

such reports are examined from the major oceans—Atlantic, Pacific, Indian—during the period 1693 to 1965.

Along the way, Heuvelmans explains how a decaying carcass cast upon the beach can be misidentified as a 'sea serpent"—the basking shark, for example, acquires a plesiosaur-like shape when its lower jaw and other body parts rot and drop away. He also points out that reports of "furry" bodies on the beach probably result from "decomposition both in sharks and whales (when) the skin comes off and the very fibrous connecting tissue begins to dry out."

Dr. Heuvelmans has no hesitation in calling a hoax a hoax, in rejecting doubtful reports and in accepting only the best documented cases. The end result is a most fascinating study which details not just sightings, but the various theories advanced over the years to account for "the great unknown," as my late friend Willy Ley once called the sea serpent.

Heuvelmans' conclusion, when all the evidence is in and weighed, is not a case for "a" sea serpent, but a strong case for no less than seven distinct and different types of unknown aquaforms! The "informal" names he assigns them, based primarily on their described appearance, are *Long-Necked, Merhorse, Many-Humped, Many-Finned, Super-Otter, Super-Eel* and *Marine-Saurian.*

The first five, Heuvelmans believes, are mammals: two probably in the seal family, with the other three being primitive forms akin to the whales. *Super-Eel* is just that, a serpentine fish approaching 60 feet or more in length, while the *Marine-Saurian* is a reptile larger and somewhat longer in the neck than the known salt-water crocodile. (Salt-water crocodiles, by the way, are known to attain lengths up to 33 feet. They are officially the world's largest reptiles.)

The elusiveness of these marine monsters, Heuvelmans believes, results from two things: their shyness of the noisy motorized ships of today, and the tendency of those ships to ply only a few standardized sea lanes, thus leaving the rest of the vast oceans to their inhabitants.

Profusely illustrated with photographs, drawings, maps and charts, the book also contains appendices listing chronologies of sightings, strandings and captures, as well as an extensive bibliography for those wishing to dig deeper into the subject. There's been no book like it since; if you can get a copy for your very own, you'll be well rewarded.

Six years before the Heuvelmans work, a writer named Thomas Helm produced **Monsters of the Deep** (Dodd, Mead & Co., NYC, 1962) which, basically, is a popularized account of known and "probable" sea monsters.

He begins with a chapter on the sea-going dinosaurs of eons ago, describes a battle between a sperm whale and a giant squid (that such battles do take place is attested to by the scars found on harpooned whales, scars left by the fanged sucking discs of the tentacles of giant squids), spends some time on seals and their relatives, looks at sightings at Loch Ness, reviews such reports as he feels are reliable, and tells how he and a friend were once fooled on a dark and windy night into thinking they saw a sea monster feeding a little ways off shore.

While it does not offer much for the serious researcher, Helm's book is a good one for younger readers.

I'll close the bookshelf with a report on my most recent acquistion, a book I acquired at a considerable discount off the original price from Publishers Central Bureau, 1 Champion Avenue, Avenel, New Jersey 07131. PCB is a clearing house for publishers who have printed more books than they have been able to sell, and that's how I got **A Pictorial History of Sea Monsters and Other Dangerous Marine Life** (Bonanza Books, NYC, 1972) by James B. Sweeney. About half of the book is devoted to sea monsters, with a most informative text and scores of illustrations, many of them drawings and woodcuts from books dating back hundreds of years. These older illustrations graphically depict the monsters reported by sea farers. The text includes accounts from writers of various past periods and Sweeney does an admirable job of tracing man's growing awareness that "every sea lion, shark or whale was not a sea monster. As a result" says Sweeney, "reported sightings became more accurate." This is an important point and one often overlooked even today when armchair "experts" miles away will "explain" a sea monster sighting as misidentification of playful porpoises, despite the dissimilarity between the appearance of these sea mammals and the unknown creature reported by eyewitnesses. In short, this is a good book and you'd do well to write PCB for a catalog; they may still have copies of Sweeney's book in stock.

There is, of course, a large body of information on sea monsters in newspapers and magazines. Generally these are harder to hunt down; the **New York Times,** for example, is the only newspaper with a continuing index. Your library should have both it and microfilms of the **Times**. Many magazine articles can be traced through the **Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature**, but not all magazines are listed in the guide. This is particularly true of the so-called "adventure" or "men's magazines," but the guide, which has been in print more years than many researchers care to dig, is a valuable research tool for the persistent hunter. Use it—you'll be well rewarded for your efforts. Happy monster hunting! ●

Books mentioned in this magazine are available from Samuel Weiser, Inc., the largest occult and paranormal bookstore in the world. To order a book or request a free catalog, write: Samuel Weiser, Inc., Dept. U, 734 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10012.

INTERVIEW: JIM THORNE, OCEANOGRAPHER

(Continued from page 17)

haps other individuals have been taken up and not brought back! Also, we've yet to consider another dimension. It's very possible that another parallel world exists alongside our own. Once we are able to penetrate this realm, some strange, weird things will happen. Who's to say for sure these ships didn't take an unexpected journey through this veil into another space and time?

Sea Monsters: In your exploration of underwater cities, have you found any evidence that Atlantis—the lost continent—might have at one time actually existed on Earth's surface?

Thorne: Last summer I took off to explore and photograph a so-called Atlantis site, discovered by Dr. Manson Valentine near the island of Bimini. We had been repeatedly told that airline pilots had seen shadows cast by some gigantic underwater structure while flying their commercial routes. My crew and I managed to pinpoint the area without any trouble and dove down to see what all the fuss was about. There, twenty feet beneath the surface, were structures which were plainly of an ancient origin. There was a sea wall consisting of blocks weighing ten or twenty tons each;

there were roads, and even columns of various descriptions. After a few moments I noticed something strange about one of the blocks. I couldn't believe my eyes at first, but one of these huge squares seemed to be floating off the bottom of the ocean. I dove all the way to the bottom and stuck my head underneath this block to see what was holding it there. And then I saw it—a column some 18 inches in diameter, a column the likes of which I had never seen before. It was obviously of very ancient vintage.

Sea Monsters: How long ago did Atlantis exist?

Thorne: One theory is that the continent dates back to 11,000 B.C. Of course no one knows. We can only speculate.

Sea Monsters: Are you familiar with Edgar Cayce and his thoughts on this subject?

Thorne: Yes. During the 1930s he said, while in a trance, that remains of Atlantis would be found just off the coast of the Bahama Islands. This is where I made my find.

Sea Monsters: Am I to take it, then, that you give credence to so-called psychic phenomena?

Thorne: I think if there is anything to this ESP business, we might find it to a higher degree in the explorers and adventurers of the world. Back when I was the group leader for "Operation Thaw," I noticed that the minute we landed in the Antarctic—we didn't actually land, because we took an ice-breaker there—members of the expedition started doing things more quickly and with greater comprehension than they had done while in training in New Zealand. Looking back, I wish I had known something about psychic phenomena then, so we could have experimented with it. I know for a fact that we could often feel a presence in the air. When I photographed a killer whale in the very same area where we had been diving the week before, I knew the whale was going to surface. When we compared notes, we had all experienced the same feeling. Another time I became aware of being observed, and when I turned around there were 50 penguins staring at me very quiety, and sitting on their little haunches observing my actions. I had not seen them at first, but I *knew* they were there.

Sea Monsters: How long a period did you spend at the "Top of the World"?

Thorne: I was there from October 1959 to February 1960. We were there that long because the ice-breaker, the U.S.S. *Adisto*, that took us there had another mission. So, it flew us off by helicopter, landed us and our equipment on the ice, and split.

Sea Monsters: Did you build houses or huts to live in?

Thorne: No, mostly we slept in the packing cases of our equipment and covered them with old parachutes. We were fairly comfortable, for we did have generators for electrical power.

Sea Monsters: You were the first person to go under the ice?

Thorne: Yes, it was the first time under the Antarctic ice for anybody. This was part of the International Geophysical Year.

Sea Monsters: What kind of temperatures did you have to contend with?

Thorne: At the Volstov Station—that's the Russian outpost—it was 126 degrees below zero. There is nothing which with to compare this sensation. The atmosphere is "pellucid." We were warned not to walk toward a certain range of mountains because they were more than 47 miles away and we might not get back. When we saw them, we couldn't help but believe they were not more than a few blocks away.

Sea Monsters: Are all your senses thrown out of balance?

Thorne: The only thing that's thrown off is your judgment, because your judgment is based on what you knew in the normal world. But the Antarctic is not the normal world. Pretty soon, though, the area could be covered by tourists. This isn't bad, because it will broaden the visual aspects of almost anybody.

Sea Monsters: What makes the mountains seem as though they are only a short distance away?

Thorne: The ultra-clear air. It contains no contamination at all. The atmosphere is so clear and free of pollution.

Sea Monsters: How does the sky look?

Thorne: Like a blue enamel bowl, unbelievably blue. But you must figure on one blizzard per week, and the average longevity of a blizzard is three days. You can't win. You have to fight to stay alive.

Sea Monsters: On the question of survival of our planet, do you see the time when we will harness the ocean waters of the world and use them for our benefit?

Thorne: Because of the disturbing need for fuel now spreading across the globe, we must sincerely think about harnessing new sources of energy if we are to survive and continue to live as we have become accustomed. We should immediately start to talk about utilizing the seas for this necessary energy—energy to keep our huge cities going and their populations well heated and fed.

Sea Monsters: How can this be accomplished?

Thorne: For years it was believed that the flow of tides could be controlled for our personal welfare, because tides are a natural phenomenon that repeat themselves at regular intervals. Surprisingly enough this did not work very well. It turned out that tides were very difficult to work with. But something that is working now is creating energy from the extreme differences in temperature which exist at the various depths of the sea. For example, in the lower depths—the abysmal black regions—the water is very cold, about 43 to 47 degrees. Yet in the upper, shallower regions the mean temperature is between 80 and 84. This radical variance in temperature can be used for man's benefit and can be harnessed and channeled for energy.

Sea Monsters: Do you know of any government that has plans to do this?

Thorne: Yes, several. Oddly, the United States ranks about fifth of all the nations in utilizing the many benefits of the sea, especially fishing. Russia is first, then come the Japanese, followed by the Chinese and the Peruvians, who are even ahead of us.

Sea Monsters: What is the reason for this lack of interest on the part of the American government?

Thorne: Funding. The funding has just never been there. Little is spent, in turn, on the exploration of inner space. This, despite the fact that the seas are infinitely more accessible and economically more vital than outer space probes. There is a committee to oversee all underwater activities, and for a long time Hubert Humphrey was chairman. Now, Hubert Humphrey may be a good politician and an intelligent man, but he knows very little about what's happening with the oceans. I believe there is a new chairman now.

Sea Monsters: How close is anyone to developing an effective program of any kind?

Thorne: Relatively close. The next most important thing is building suitable underwater habitats. If our future is in the sea—if the sea is to save us, if the sea is to feed that half of the population that goes to bed hungry, and to give us resources like oil, liquid gas, natural gas, minerals—if it is to

give us all of these things, then man must eventually learn to work and live comfortably underwater.

Sea Monsters: Haven't we already constructed domed cities under the waves?

Thorne: They weren't actually domed cities, but cylindrical houses in which man lived in a dry atmosphere. The pressure inside the structure was a little bit higher than the water outside, so that the sea could not come rushing in. There was actually a round trap door which led directly to the water. When one of our frogmen—we call them aquanauts—had a chore to do, he put on his diving gear and dropped through this trap door. They also set up many instruments to help us better understand the waters of the world and their functions.

Sea Monsters: How many enclosures were constructed and how far down were they?

Thorne: The Navy had two or three, as I recall, that were very successful. The first one was at 93 feet in the warm, clear water of the Bahamas, off Bermuda. Another was off La Jolla, California, in about 105 feet of water, but the water was very cold and visibility only 40 feet.

Sea Monsters: Did this cold temperature seem to have an effect on those in the program?

Thorne: Yes, the lack of water clarity and the cold Keys caused asphyxiation, and the coldness, of course, made them move much slower. There was a decline in work ability of approximately 17 to 30 per cent from an average surface performance.

Sea Monsters: Do you know what the temperature was like inside these cylindrical houses?

Thorne: Always very comfortable. The problem, of course, is that you're breathing an exotic mixture of gases—oxygen, helium and nitrogen. This means a long period of decomposition when the aquauaut comes back to the surface.

Sea Monsters: Is there any possibility in the years to come—with our continuing advances in scientific technology—that we might learn to actually live underwater without breathing apparatus, that we could develop the lungs necessary to do this?

Thorne: We're not so far away from this as might be thought. Dr. Johannes Kylstra at Duke University is experimenting with breathing fluoro-carbon liquids. There is 30 times as much oxygen in that liquid as there is in the air. In that way, man can stay down for as long as he likes, do the job he has been assigned and shoot back up toward the surface with no decompression. So far, he has managed to have mice breathing and extracting out of a fluoro-carbon liquid to a depth of more than 90 feet. We are next in line.

Man will be doing it soon, and I really mean that if you want to extrapolate, or if you want to just extend this information and try to picture what might happen, you could go home to your family around Christmas and attend all the cocktail parties. In that group, in the near future, there will be some people with tiny holes punctured right about in the base of their throat, where a tracheotomy might take place. These will be the underwater dwellers who can live underwater as comfortably as they can on the surface.

Sea Monsters: Finally, what do you see as the most promising and rewarding future programs in the field of oceanography?

Thorne: I think we should get back to the Antarctic and continue testing the Aquatic-therm, a device which erodes even concrete-hard Antarctic ice at the rate of eight tons an hour. I'd like to be able to keep a water path open all the way through, say to the Ross Ice Shelf. A number of ships are still there, frozen for many years. I should like to see whether or not we couldn't free them. Also, I'd like to conduct an experiment on the St. Lawrence River and see whether or not the same device can keep the St. Lawrence open to interstate commerce year round.

In addition, I would like to search for other lost cities. I'm convinced that by examining ancient cultures, we can learn much about the society we have built and how better to contend with it. I've already done quite a bit along these lines. Some years ago I discovered an underwater city called Emborium, which in Greek means "Market Place," or "Commercial City." This city lies underwater about 120 miles south of Greece between Crete and the mainland. I would guess that the city must have contained at least 55 two-story buildings dating from the Minoan period. One of the things I uncovered was a bowl, 3½ feet high, 2½ feet in diameter and scooped out about 18 inches deep. It dates back to 4,000 B.C.

In short, the future of our planet lies in the ocean. Our scientists should begin an extensive study of all the possibilities that abound here. Mankind, we are told, originated in the sea, and we may have to return to our "birthplace" in order to survive. ●

THE SELKIES — SEAL PEOPLE OF THE NORTH!

(Continued from page 40)

man. She removed her sealskin swimming garb and hid it carefully under a stone, then walked inland to see how the land-people lived. He stole the garments, removed them to a safe place, and then waited for the woman to return. Without her sealskin robes she could not survive in the cold winter seas, as he well knew. Her webbed hands and feet would allow her to swim, but without the protection of the sealskin she would soon grow chilled in the icy waters.

"The fisherman refused to reveal the hiding place of the robe, so she had to stay on land like it or not. She married MacCodrum, lived in his house for many years, bore him many children, all with little webs on their hands and feet. She helped him run his inland farm with its hay pastures and cattle and sheep. And she never stopped trying to find where he had hidden the sealskin.

"Since she often searched the house and barn while he was away, MacCodrum kept moving the skin from one hiding place to another. But one day, ten years after the seal-maiden first came ashore, MacCodrum was observed by his oldest son concealing the vital skin in a haystack in one of the upland fields. The boy thought this was an odd thing to do and mentioned it to his mother the next day. She ran to the field, tore the haystack apart and found the seal-skin. Returning to the beach that same hour, she slipped into the seal-skin and plunged back home into the sea. MacCodrum entered his house that evening to find his wife gone, seven puzzled children and a half-cooked meal of porridge and fish chowder on the table where she had dropped them."

The children grew up in good health and had many children of their own on North Uist, all bearing the traces of the webbed fingers. MacCodrums still live today in the Hebrides, twelve generations later. None of them will ever harm a seal.

Some skin-stealing young fisherman of Skye island were less lucky. They

caught a group of seal-women on the beach and stole their swimming skins, forcing the women to stay on land and marry them. But one of the thieves a year later admitted where the skins were hidden. The women recovered them and returned to the sea, but the men trying to recapture them had their boat overturned in rough surf and were drowned. The lure of the free open life in the ocean was too great. The dull drab smoky huts of the fishermen were no match for the great salty waters.

If the stories told only of sea women, you might suspect that they were only a sailor's legend like the mermaid. But there are male selkies, too. The famous song mentioned earlier, "The Great Selchie of Sule Skerry," tells of a seal-man who came ashore to seduce an earth maiden. As she sat crying near the shore with her newborn baby, the seal-man came to her again, giving her a bag of gold taken from a wreck as a "nurse's fee" so that she could raise her little son. When the boy grew up and webs began to show around his toes, the selkie retrieved him and took him to the far Skerry Island where earth-dwellers had never set foot. Unhappily the isolation of Sule Skerry was gone. A human hunter discovered the island and tried out his marksmanship on two seals he saw swimming in the surf—the selkie and his son.

The selkies had their underwater communities in caves and solitary harbors. They had to stay close to land to bear their young, as did the seals. Selkies were not as fully adapted to the sea as the dolphins and whales who could bear and raise young hundreds of miles from the nearest land.

Few humans ever saw the underwater selkie towns, which is just as well, since the selkies were reported to kill intruders who approached too close to their secret hiding places. Those humans who were taken to the selkie towns remembered the experience with terror. One fisherman from John o' Groats, the northern most point of Scotland, was a notorious killer of seals. A man on horseback rode up to his cabin one night, saying he was in the market for a fine load of sealskins. The fisherman had a wagonload of sealskins he was anxious to sell. He mounted behind the rider and they rode off "to talk with the principal buyer" in a town some ways off. But the rider did not take the fisherman toward the town. Rather, he let him off on a tall cliff overlooking the stormy ocean.

A group of male selkies grabbed the fisherman, wrapped him in a sealskin robe and carried him down into the sea. Deeper they went, with the fisherman on the edge of total panic from fear of drowning. Then the party swam up into a huge underwater cavern, dimly lit by glowing seaweeds. (Many ocean plants do in fact give off a silvery glow, as can be seen by anyone taking a ship through warm tropical waters when the *Noctiluca plankton* mark the ship's path in a wake of cold fire.)

Hauled out on a gravel beach in this sealed cave, the fisherman noticed hundreds of selkies gathered there, staring at him. He was taken to one old selkie lying on the gravel with a knife-wound in his chest. "Last week you caught a seal in your fish-net and slashed him with your knife before he escaped. That was not a seal but one of us. That was my father," said the rider who had lured the fisherman to the cave. "Do what you can to cure his wound, for if he dies, you die also."

The fisherman cared for the old selkie as best he could in that damp cavern with no fire and no dry clothing, where the only food was oysters and raw fish. The old man finally recovered and dived back into the water to catch his own meals. Before the selkies would bring the fisherman back to the land, they made him swear a solemn oath never again to kill or harm any seals, lest he injure a selkie by mistake.

Glad enough to swear that or any other oath to get away from his prison, the fisherman returned to his cabin shaken and fearful, but a foremost protector of seals from then on. A tale of the remote past? No, this was reported in 1850, which is a lot later than most people imagine the selkies were around.

Where did the selkies come from? And did any of them survive the end of the nineteenth century? How could a group of humans live in the sea anyway?

The selkies never liked living too close to the peoples of the land. They would leave an area if too many humans settled there. On the northern islands there arose a sort of tacit neutrality—humans wouldn't bother seals, selkies wouldn't tear fisherman's nets or overturn their boats. There were never very many humans living on the barren Scottish islands in any case.

But in more southerly and warmer parts of the world the selkies went away long before the nineteenth century. Selkies were hunters, living on what fish they could catch in the chase. If they grew too numerous, they would overuse their food supply like any hunting people and starve. Meanwhile on land, humans learned how to grow wheat and rice and increase their food supply ten or twenty times. Humans learned how to use fire and how to make metal weapons, knives and harpoons and guns that the selkies could not face and could not copy in their fireless caves. Humans gradually pushed the selkies out of the way into the cold north seas.

Four thousand years ago there were selkies in the Persian Gulf. Babylonian tablets tell of a talking sea-creature named Oannes, who looked human but wore a fish-like skin. He would not eat land-dweller's food but he talked with them about geometry and how to build stone huts. Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer, has suggested that this may be a memory of a visitor from another planet. It is more likely to be a selkie.

In the Middle Ages the churchmen tried to decide if selkies were human with human souls. (They called them "mermen" rather than selkies.) In 1531, a selkie was caught in the nets of a fishing boat off the coast of Poland and brought to the king. Because the selkie had a tall peaked hood that resembled a bishop's mitre, the chroniclers called him a "sea-bishop." As the story is reported: "This Sea-Monster was brought to the King, and after a while seemed very much to express to him, that his minde was to return to his own Element again, which the King perceiving commanded that it should be so, and the Bishop was carried back to the Sea, and cast himself into it immediately." Happy ending in this case. Other captured selkies were less fortunate; they were often killed or kept in cages until they died.

The story of the Sea-Bishop is taken from a standard natural history book by John Gregory of Oxford, written in 1650. Nobody was especially surprised at sea creatures that resembled humans. Notice that this one was observed not in some dark obscure cave in a distant land but in the middle of a European king's court.

How far back do selkies go? They might be as old as the other branch of humanity, the ones who stayed on land. There is a theory of human origins first proposed by Sir Alistair Hardy, an English marine biologist, in the 1950s—he suggested that humans became hairless and upright walkers two million years ago because they spent most of their time wading in

shallow water offshore looking for mussels and clams and other seafood dinners.

This was picked up by a writer named Elaine Morgan, who wrote **The Descent of Woman** in 1972. Morgan claims that Hardy was right, that people evolved from a sort of aquatic ape very different from modern chimpanzees and gorillas. She also claims that it was really prehistoric women rather than prehistoric men who first learned to use language, make pottery, grow food crops, domesticate animals and so on. That's a whole other argument which is better saved for some other time. ("ERA in the Pleistocene?") It doesn't look as if we really came from wading oceanic apes.

But that could be where the selkies came from—a branch of prehistoric humans who spent more and more time in the sea, gradually going deeper and farther.

We are beginning to experiment to see how long people can live and work under water: the Navy Sealabs, and or Cousteau's Conshelf habitats. Some marine biologists talk about adjusting people to live in the sea permanently, like dolphins and seals. Or, like the selkies, who went back to the sea thousands of years before Captain Cousteau got the idea.

Will our modern divers meet their long-lost selkie cousins in some northern sea? Or is it too late for that? Have the selkies all gone?

David Thomson in 1954 heard stories of selkies that had been seen only the decade before—of the crew of a swamped fishing vessel helped ashore by a herd of seals led by a selkie, so that the five men walked into the house where their own wake was being held two weeks after they were reported lost at sea, of a man who killed a white baby seal to make a vest from its fur, and how a selkie-woman came ashore to warn him of his doom, and how indeed he was found lying dead with no mark on him beside the road a week later; and even of how a selkie came ashore to hitch a ride to the November Fair at Belmullet, and how he had to carry his drunk host home by water on the back of an Atlantic grey seal. ("Sure, there's lots of selkies that comes to the fair. They just swim up to the Belmullet Wharf.")

The fishermen on the Scottish and Irish islands will not say very much about the selkies when strangers are about. But there are still a few unvisited coves, and there are still many families in which babies are born with tiny but distinct webs between their fingers. The selkies are a stubborn and tenacious race. •

THE CENTURY OF SEA SERPENTS: 1800-1900

(Continued from page 47)

convince him there was not such a being."

This sighting was one of the most scientific examinations of a sea serpent. Chaplin Felch and his shipmates actually took the time and effort to observe this creature, trying to make some intelligent estimates as to its true size and features. It is interesting to note that the commander of the ship previously being a non-believer in sea serpents was converted in a matter of only minutes.

It was at this time that the sea serpent would start to take on a new look in the eyes of the people around the world. All kinds of rewards were now being offered to anyone who might bring to port a serpent dead or alive. One such reward was said to be in the amount of five thousand dollars.

Another effort was made to get some concrete evidence by a committee formed in the city of Gotingen, Germany. Its purpose was to investigate and collect any and all information on reports of sea monsters. It can be noted here that their files soon became the world's most thorough file on this topic, and even today contain the most information ever collected.

Soon most non-believers found that these sightings were not myths or hoaxes but very real, and that very credible people of high standing would start reporting these creatures. One such incident occurred in 1826 as was reported in the **American Journal of Science.** "The captain and myself were standing on the starboard side of the vessel, looking over the bulwark, and remarking how perfectly smooth was the surface of the sea. It was about half past six, and a cloudless sky. On a sudden we heard a gushing in the water ahead of the ship. At first we imagined it to be a whale spouting; and turning to the quarter from whence the sound proceeded, we observed the serpent, slowly approaching at more than the rate of two miles an hour, in a straight direction. I suppose we were hardly going through the water so fast, for there was scarcely a breath of wind. I must premise, that I never had heard of the existence of such an animal, I instantly exclaimed, 'Why, there is a sea snake.' 'That is the sea serpent,' exclaimed the captain, 'and I would give my ship and cargo to catch the monster.'

"I immediately called to the passengers, who were all down below, but only five or six came up, among whom was Miss Magee, the daughter of a merchant in New York. The remainder refused to come up, saying there had been too many hoaxes of the kind already. I was too eager to stand parleying with them, and I returned to the captain. In the same slow style the serpent passed the vessel at about the distance of fifty yards from us, neither turning his head to the right nor left. As soon as his head had reached the stern of the vessel, he gradually laid it down in a horizontal position with his body, and floated along like the mast of a vessel. That there was upwards of sixty feet visible is clearly shown by the circumstance; the length of the ship was upwards of one hundred and twenty feet, and at the time his head was off the stern; the other end (as much as was above the surface) had not passed the main-mast. The time we saw him, as described, was two minutes and a half. After he had declined his head, we saw him for about twenty minutes ahead, floating along like an enormous log of timber. His motion in the water was meandering like that of an eel, and the wake left behind was like that occasioned by the passing of small craft through the water. We had but one harpoon on board, and the ship's long boat was, for the time being, converted into a cow house. We had two guns on board, but no ball.

"Two days after we saw him, he was seen by another vessel off Cape Cod, about two hundred miles from where he made his appearance to us. This intelligence reached New York about four days after we arrived there, and the description given exactly corresponded with foregoing. I dined one day at a hotel in New York with Sir Isaac Coffin, who discredited the existence of such an animal which was reported to have been seen by Capt. Bennet of Boston about five years back; but, as I assured him I had never heard, previously, even the report of such a monster, and that I was an Englishman, he gave full credit to it."

Now serpents were making headlines

in all kinds of publications and still there were people, especially scientists, who wanted more convincing proof. They wanted a serpent in the flesh, not just a reported sighting. Finally in April of 1899, as was reported in the **English Mechanic**, the body of a supposed sea monster was washed ashore in Australia. For the first time scientists would have something real to work with and this account went as follows: "When we called at Suwarrow Island, on our way back to Sydney, the natives told us that a big devil-fish had been washed ashore. We proceeded along the beach towards the spot indicated, and our nostrils were soon assailed by a horrible stench. After perils by sea and worse perils from the poisoned air, we got close to the gigantic animal. We secured as much of it as we could, and we have now on board the first sea serpent ever brought to Australia or anywhere else."

The captain corroborated this statement, and added that the hide or skin of the monster was of a brownish color, and covered with hair. The head resembled that of a horse. He estimated the length at 60 feet, and the probable weight at 70 tons.

A detailed examination showed that the portions of the sea serpent brought by the *Emu* were the skull, measuring 3 feet from the neck to the point of the nose, some ribs 2½ feet in length, and the spine 4 inches in diameter. There was evidence of two tusks at the extremity of the lower jaw, and the natives said the monster had flappers like a seal when it was originally washed ashore. In reply to the question as to why he did not bring more of the animal with him, the captain said: "To stay longer collecting the remains would have nauseated the collectors beyond recovery." The discovery has aroused so much interest in scientific circles in Sydney and amongst the general public that the captain of the *Emu* has agreed to call again at Suwarrow Island on his next trip and gather up the remaining fragments of the sea serpent or whatever else this uncanny leviathan of the deep may have been. ●

SEA SERPENTS IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

(Continued from page 20)

the general public. People who have seen these creatures have been accused of suffering from hallucinations and others who have taken photographs of them have been charged with falsely fabricating these pictures or have been ignored by the college professors. The scientists show the same prejudiced attitude when they deal with UFOs. Although more than 20 million Americans have seen these unusual machines including astronauts, pilots, policemen and the Democratic Presidential Candidate Jimmy Carter, the scientists have officially stated that anybody who sees these objects are crazy, suffering from hallucinations, or "misinterpreting the facts."

Seventy years ago the scientists had a completely different attitude toward sea serpents because their salaries and fringe benefits were lower than today, the government had little control over scientific research and Darwin's theories were still open to debate. These scientists were more interested in pure science than in making money. As a result, they had more respect for people who observed sea serpents.

The scientific magazines at the turn of the century such as **Nature**, the world famous British publication, and **Scientific American**, the leading U.S. scientific magazine, accepted the visual observations of reputable witnesses that these creatures existed. For example, an article from the October 5, 1895 edition of **Scientific American** accepted the sighting of a lawyer and his family as valid and reliable:

"A great sea serpent was seen off the coast of New Jersey at Spring Lake on Sunday, September 22, at 1:40 p.m. The testimony concerning the monster is well corroborated. It was seen by lawyer Willard P. Shaw of Paterson, N.J. With him at the time were his wife and three children, and Miss Ella Salter. The serpent was also seen by Mr. Phillip Jackson, another cottager at Spring Lake.

"An excellent view was had through binoculars while the monster passed directly in front of them at a distance of a half mile. The head was of a peculiar shape, as large as a flour barrel but longer. The nose and mouth resembled those of an alligator. The body was smooth and round, of a dark color, and apparently free of fins. The monster was making its way south and skirting along the shore. The movements seemed to be effected by a vertical undulation of the body. Mr. Shaw estimated its length at 100 feet and stated that its speed exceeded that of any known vessel and was in the neighborhood of 50 miles an hour!. . ."

Another article from the June 28, 1906 edition of **Nature** accepted the observations of many witnesses from many parts of the world in spite of a Professor Mosley who tried to ignore these people:

"The appearance of a sea serpent has been recorded from time to time by quite a number of witnesses. Many of the alleged appearances were evidently worthy of more serious consideration. The importance of the recent case is that it was witnessed by two gentlemen who have undergone great training in the observation of animals and are highly respected.

"The event recorded by Messrs. Nicoli and Meade-Waldo took place in the forenoon of December 7, 1905, when they were aboard the yacht *Valhalla* off the coast of Para. At a distance of about 100 yards from the vessel the two observers saw what appeared to be the dorsal fin of some large animal. The head appeared to be that of a turtle while the neck was over six feet in length. The creature was nearly 40 feet in length. This description tallies to some extent with the narrative given by the officers of the H.M.S. *Daedalus* of the sea serpent they sighted in the year of 1948 in the Atlantic. In each of these instances it can scarcely be doubted that the object seen was a living creature, and that it was of the same general type. . . ."

In addition to these scientific articles, the 1911 edition of **The Encyclopedia Britannica** contained an article on sea serpents. Although the 1974 edition of this world famous encyclopedia claimed that sea serpents are "mythological and legendary marine animals," the 1911 edition stated that there is a good possibility that they actually existed:

"A gigantic squid was probably the foundation of Norse accounts of 'sea serpents' and also could have explained some of the early American sightings. The stories were so consistent and vouched for by so many people that no doubt can be raised as to their existence. The descriptions can be summarized as having the following points in common: (1) general form of a serpent (2) length averaging 60 feet (3) head flattened, eyes not seen (4) neck 12-16 inches in diameter (5) many appendages on the head and back (6) color dark (7) swims at surface with head slightly elevated (8) progression steady and uniform, body straight bu pliable. . . ." ●

A SCIENTIST LOOKS AT SEA MONSTERS

(Continued from page 49)

had been with me on that fishing trip.

"They don't believe we saw a sea monster," was his greeting, "more than a block in length, and a thin neck that went up in the air. Could have smashed our boat into two if it got angered." And from his pocket he took some drawings which he showed me. "Did them as soon as I got home from that trip," he explained. "Didn't want to take a chance on my memory."

I'm not too certain how I got out of that one. All I knew was that I didn't want to get too involved in what he saw—or what he thought he saw.

And this is one big problem when it comes to checking on what people saw when they claimed they did see a sea monster. I have read various reports of such experiences, including the account of Lieutenant Lagresille, commander of the French gunboat, Avalanche, which took place in the year 1897. In his report he stated: "The distinguishing characteristic of these animals was that their bodies were not rigid, as in the case with the known species of whales, but had undulatory movements similar to those of serpents, only in a vertical sense."

There was also another officer on that boat who later made a statement of what had been observed: "A large, black, rounded body, round like that of a big whale and then a sinuous portion. . .appeared to connect the body with the head."

People can be fooled as to what they think they are seeing. Try this experiment with a friend or two to help you. Start looking up into the sky. Then remark loudly:

"Look at those two planes up there. Could be high flying enemy planes."

Want to bet that people will stop and look up into the sky? And a lot of them will see at least "two planes." This comes under the heading of "power of suggestion" in psychology.

If in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries sailors went out to sea in frail boats and thought the world was flat, then they did expect to come across certain things in the water. Especially so if they had heard from the lips of other sailors tales of terrible and powerful sea serpents.

But it can happen, and this is most important to bear in mind. Some person, or some people, can see a sea serpent, provided, of course, that it is possible for such creatures to exist today. This is fundamental in any scientific study concerning the existence or non-existence of sea serpents. So you must constantly bear this in mind: to see or think you saw a sea serpent is one matter. Its existence is something else.

There are at present only two known methods by which we can definitely account for the possible existence of a sea serpent. One is to say that somehow some of them did not vanish in the past. They continued to live and to breed. And it is their descendants that have been spotted by people.

The other is to say that some specimen of marine life became very large. Whether it was an octopus, a squid, a conger eel or any other creature of the deep sea, it gave rise to a breed of gigantic sea serpents.

We shall examine each of these two possibilities to see if they are sound from a scientific point of view. We shall now examine the first possibility, which means we must turn back the clock of time to prehistoric life on this planet.

Life began below the surface of the seas. From the fossil records we have a fairly clear idea of the development. Where did the oceans, seas and lakes originate? Over the centuries there was a constant downpour of rain. We know that the earliest fish-like vertebrates with jaws appeared by the end of the Silurian period. If you want a name for them, we can call them the placoderms. No use piling names upon names.

And then the land began to rise. Or you might say the water level fell. Evidently, if those creatures that lived below the surface of the water came to land and wanted to live, then certain changes had to take place. The secret was the method of getting the oxygen needed to sustain life. As fish, they had gills, and the gills were an excellent apparatus to take oxygen from water. In the laboratory, or even with a simple homemade apparatus, you can break water into oxygen and hydrogen. The gills did it for fish life. The answer for life on land was lungs!

Evidently, there also had to be a change in the method of locomotion. The fins developed into legs. Now let a couple of million years pass. Conditions change upon this planet. And so some of the large creatures that came from the sea and had adapted themselves to land life now started to return to their original ancestral home.

So the fins that had become legs and feet now again became fins. And in place of lungs, gill slits had to do the work, but not for every specimen in the world. For today we have two specimens of fish that breathe air. Most people know one as the lungfish; the other is known as the lobe fin.

Darwin was right in his basic idea—survival of the fittest. But why some huge creatures vanished from the Earth is still a mystery. Whether it was changed environmental conditions or destruction by a more powerful group of animals, we can only take a guess.

A group of creatures known as the coelacanths went from land into the sea. Scientists classified them as among the "vanished" or extinct forms of marine life. Then in the year 1939, a living specimen was discovered off the coast of South Africa. And since that year other specimens have been taken and studied.

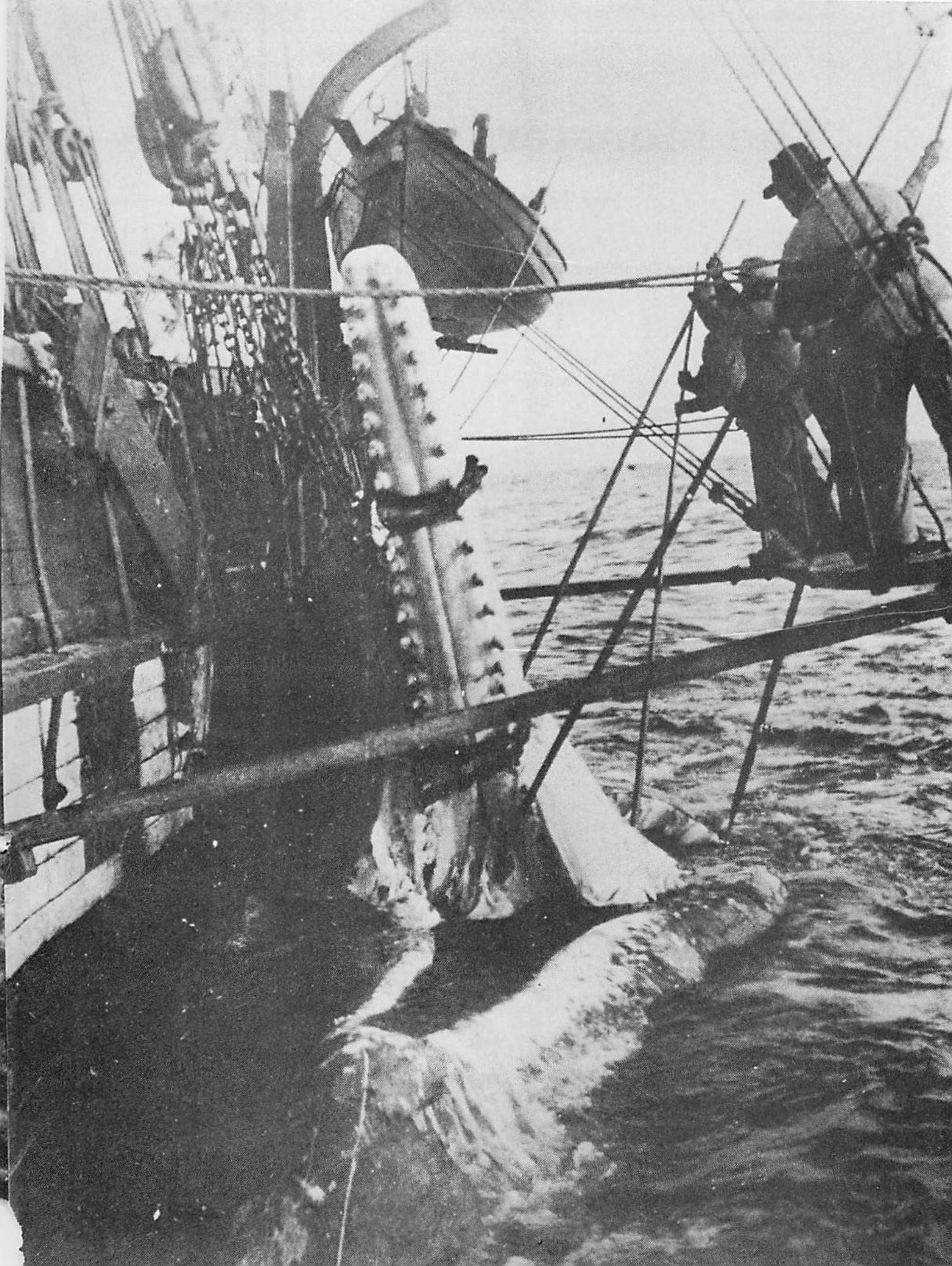
Now if this group of creatures can live all through the ages, then it certainly is possible that specimens of what we so popularly term "sea monsters" can still exist today.

Basic for their existence is food. And the bottom of the sea supplies both marine plant life as well as fish for the consumption of the "sea monster." Its habitat could easily be a very large cave. When the sea level rose, and land went underwater, with it went the caves.

For its continuous existence, it was necessary to bear offspring. As yet, there is no scientific bar to the existence of such a very large and powerful marine creature.

The other possibility for the existence of the "sea monster" comes under the heading of "mutations." Something happens in the structure of a marine creature—say an octopus—and it grows and grows way beyond its normal growth limit. It may be a change that is limited only to this one specimen, and it cannot be passed on to the offspring. Or the change may be of such a fundamental shift that an entirely new branch of the specimen is created—a giant fish.

So we now have two sound scientific explanations for the possible existence of a "sea monster." What we do need is a well equipped floating laboratory, to visit different areas where there have been such sightings and make necessary underwater explorations with marine cameras. When the first "sea monster" has been either photographed this way or captured and brought back, then and only then will the skeptics be silenced. ●



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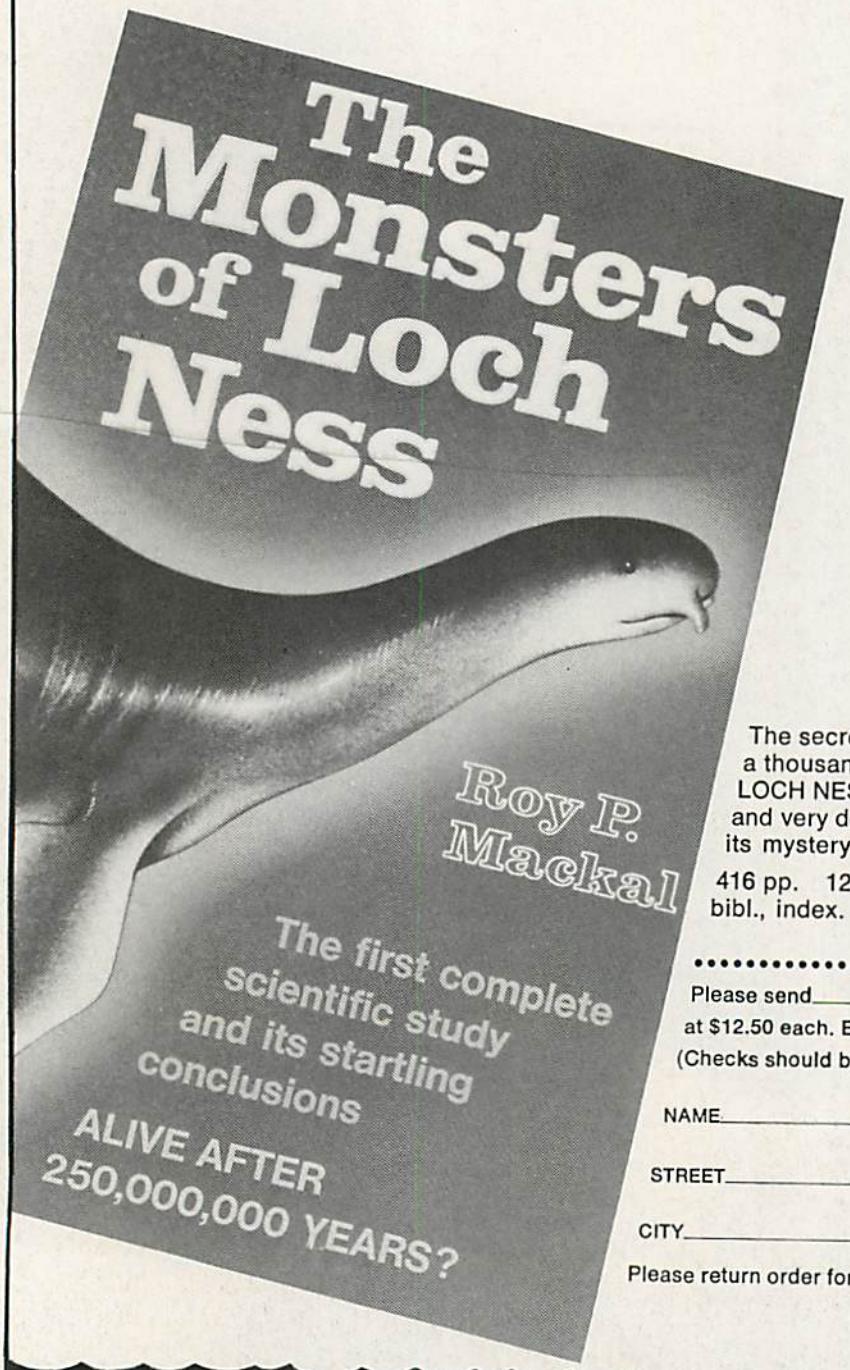

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