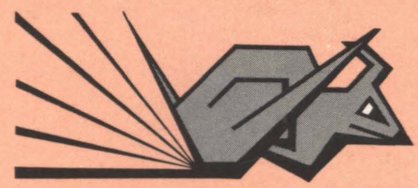
10th ANNIVERSARY



PURSUIT®

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 8 NO. 4 OCTOBER, 1975

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED
Columbia, New Jersey 07832
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Our publishing schedule is four quarterly issues of PURSUIT, dated January, April, July, and October, and numbered as annual volumes — Vol. 1 being 1968 and before; Vol. 2, 1969, and so on. These are mailed at the end of the month. (Membership and our quarterly journal PURSUIT is $10 per year. Subscription to PURSUIT, without membership benefits, for libraries only, is $8 for 4 issues.) Order forms for back issues will be supplied on request.

PURSUIT is listed in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory and in the Standard Guide to Periodicals; and is abstracted in Abstracts of Folklore Studies. It is also available from University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. The price is $4.10 per reel. An annual index appears in the October issue.

Vol. 8, No.4

October, 1975

PURSUIT®

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

FOUNDED BY IVAN T. SANDERSON

DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF "THINGS" THAT ARE CUSTOMARILY DISCOUNTED

Managing Editor: Robert J. Durant

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

To some it may seem paradoxical that an organization such as ours dedicated to continuing the work of Charles Hoy Fort, should bother to hail an event of such perhaps dubious significance as the tenth anniversary of its founding. We can only conjecture about what Old Charlie might have said about birthday celebrations. Nevertheless, this would seem an excellent opportunity to glance back at the past ten years of our existence as an organization, and to take stock of our current circumstances, and most importantly, to attempt some assessment of our future prospects.

Pursuit has been a popular and respected publication in the fortean field. It has been maintained as a journal of relatively high quality despite a range of adversities, including a couple of national economic recessions, skyrocketing printing and mailing costs, and numerous changes in the editorial staff. It is important to note that the preparation of Pursuit has been accomplished entirely by volunteers. The one person who deserves the most credit for this really remarkable job is Mrs. Sabina W. Sanderson, and I am pleased to take advantage of this occasion to single her out for a resounding "well done." Back issues are selling at a fast clip. Pursuit is being quoted in an increasing number of books and magazine articles, and on the whole it is being received as a serious journal rather than as a curiosity or cult publication.

Looking back over the past decade, we have seen our membership increase slowly but steadily, even in the face of some very serious organizational difficulties. The most telling blow was the death of our founder, Ivan T. Sanderson. At this writing, some two and a half years later, we are still beset by some of the problems incurred by his passing. Our most vexing and continuing challenge has been the task of keeping the Society on a sound financial basis.

The Society's strongest asset is without a doubt its membership. We have every reason to be optimistic about the future when we consider the depth of interest and support shown by our members over the years.

One of the things we would like to accomplish is a streamlined method of communications between fortean researchers. It is certainly a great waste of valuable time and effort to maintain dozens of separate one-man newspaper clipping files, for example. Ideally, the Society should provide an efficient two way flow of data on anomalies.

Earlier this year we took certain steps to facilitate the organization of investigative groups within the SITU membership. Hopefully, this will develop into a system whereby fortean events can be followed up quickly. One knowledgeable investigator at the scene can be worth his weight in newspaper clippings.

We hope to have expanded and self-sufficient library facilities for search and research by persons who are unable to participate in field investigations. The value of library work should not be underestimated. It will remain a vital factor in fortean research, and we should never forget that the genius of Fort found its expression in his books that were the product of thousands of hours of library research.

These are just a few of our goals and hopes for the future. On the more mundane side, the two buildings and the grounds at headquarters will need periodic refurbishing, and there are other jobs to be done on a regular basis, such as maintaining the library and files and answering our rather staggering volume of mail. This is no small matter. Remember, all of this is done by volunteers, working part-time.

Ten years ago there was considerably less public interest in the subjects the Society was organized to study. In the interim the situation has changed radically. There is ample reason to believe that in the near future orthodox science will begin to deal with many of our heretofore denigrated and ignored "things" as a matter of course. Indeed, hardly a month passes now without some announcement that this university or that research group has "discovered" some merit in a bit of "folklore," and so forth.

We may ultimately be co-opted by the Scientific Establishment. In the meantime, however, these developments can only serve to encourage us and to reinforce the conviction that we have been on the right track all along. Viewed in this light, our existence to date has been vindicated, and our potential for growth and real usefulness in the years to come should be obvious.

Robert C. Warth

STRANGE, STRANGE WORLD . . .

by Norbert Spehner

During the summer months, Montreal is a city offering numerous attractions and its tourists find choosing a difficult task. But there is one place where all members of SITU should consider a priority to visit: Man and His World, formerly known as Expo '67. There, one can find the Strange, Strange World Pavilion, truly a museum of the Unexplained, which has attracted millions of curious tourists.

Strange, Strange World Pavilion, situated on St. Helen's Island, presents a complete panorama of the mysteries of the Universe, and for the members of SITU, it offers a double interest as the subjects which it discusses are the same as those studied by the Society of the Unexplained. Ivan T. Sanderson, with whom I had the pleasure of collaborating, has played an important role in the elaboration of the pavilion, its orientation and even its philosophy! Let us examine briefly the history (of the birth) of the pavilion as well as the essential role played by Ivan T. Sanderson in the realization and conception of this

exposition which is not only original, but probably the only one of its kind in the entire world.

In 1969, the city of Montreal decided to open and re-establish new pavilions: as Scientific enigmas were very much in vogue at that time (one spoke often of flying saucers) it was decided first of all to make a pavilion based on UFO's.

A small team of researchers, under the responsible guidance of Mr. Michel Lambert pavilion designer, got to work and began a quest for interesting subjects, original pieces for exposition, appropriate illustrations, etc. All this presented an impressive documentation and a profound knowledge of the different aspects on exposition.

Mr. Michel Lambert was looking for consultants for the various sections of the pavilion and called for my services regarding a specific sector. From the start, we had numerous difficulties: we were lacking in philosophy, in a precise guideline...we were seeking documentation and we were lacking time! The first draft suggested by the appointed script-writer was too ambiguous. Specialists would have to be consulted. It was then, in May 1969, that an article entitled "Living Fossil... is this the missing link between man and the apes?" appeared in Argosy, written by Ivan T. Sanderson, who the preceding month, had published another article on the Wisconsin monster. It seemed to us an opportune time to communicate with SITU. The script-writer made a trip to New Jersey for the first contact... which proved inconclusive as he returned practically empty-handed.

Time passed, the opening date was approaching, a solution had to be found at all costs... and to add to the general confusion, the script-writer left for Europe leaving us with only a rough draft! In his absence, I took his position. Then, Mr. Michel Lambert decided to have Ivan come to Montreal. The trip took place a few weeks before the exposition's opening and lasted five or six days... five or six of the most frantic days of my life!

Many things struck me about his personality at first sight, I admired this man from the start: his rigor and his intellectual honesty, his astonishing capacity for work and his talents for story telling! Had it not been for the week's work we had waiting for us, I believe that we would have spent our days listening to Ivan tell about his many adventures and discussing flying saucers, sea monsters and a multitude of other subjects, the next, more interesting than the one before.

For me, Ivan is the original Fortean, impregnated with the spirit of Charles Fort whose ideology he had adapted and perfected; a prudent skepticism allied with an embracing spirit, an abundant imagination and a highly developed sense of humor!

But returning to his capacity for work... during the week following his arrival in Montreal, I hardly had time to sleep or dream. We had to make up for a lot of lost time... from the first night Ivan drowned me in a ton of documents of all kinds: newspaper clippings, books, reviews, maps with the formal order to read everything during the night and to select and note the most important for the next day's meeting.

When, I finally arrived home at midnight, I would have until four o'clock in the morning to read all the documents. Once the possible selections were made, a precis had to be written for the text... Ivan managed to get a typewriter from Expo into his room at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and with his charm also succeeded in persuading a secretary to lend a helping hand after office hours. It was a long exciting night when Ivan would type the texts in English, I would translate at the same time and the secretary would type the final version! This ended about five o'clock in the morning after strong protest of the neighboring roomers... but the work was done.

For the pavilion, SITU proved to be an untapped mine of varied documents. We had to choose the most interesting and find attractive ways for public presentation.

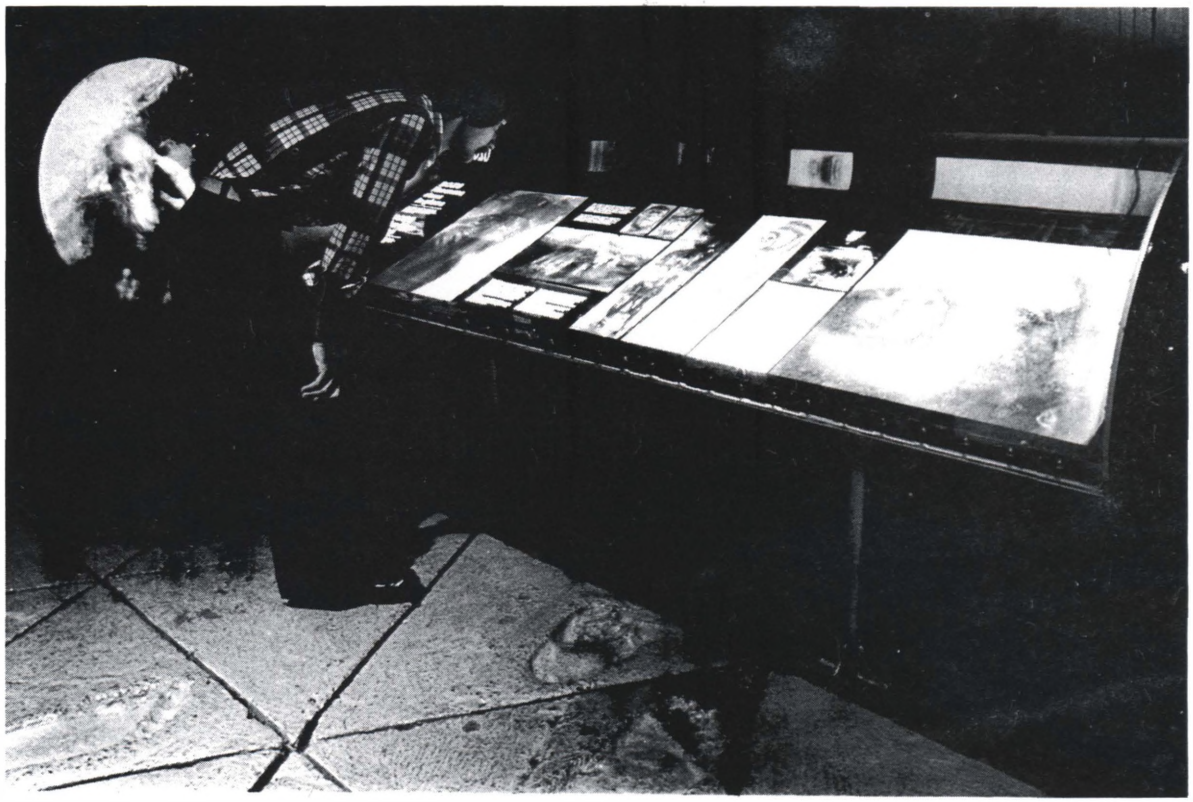
Among the subjects of interest that we chose for the first season were: the musical rocks of Pennsylvania, well known by the readers of Pursuit who expedited many specimens to us, which the visitors could tap with tiny hammers. The miniature coffins from Scotland from which three dimensional reproductions were made, the little boats of Borneo; the foot prints of Yeti and Sasquatch which were imprinted in cement on the pavilion floor; copies of the famous cells from Bagdad, a large map of the world on which were figured the location of these mysteries and many other passionate subjects too numerous to mention. But we touched also all the great scientific enigmas; flying saucers, sea monsters, ABSM, mysterious civilizations, archeological findings, unknown animals, etc... The panorama was total enough.

The second year, Mr. Richard Lanthier and myself made an agreeable trip to New Jersey and had at first, very full days... of work, but also of long discussion with Ivan as an unlimited narrator.

That year new subjects enriched our collection of mysteries, notably the Madonna of Kanawha Valley (Virginia) which was donated by the State Governor in person, and which Ivan installed in the pavilion following a subsequent trip; a maya plane with delta wings which Ivan had spoken about in an article in Argosy (he never missed an occasion to have us profit by the latest finding), a pre-columbian jaguar equipped with modern machinery, vegetable balls from Lake Heydon in Br. Col., and original toping of a Simard (sonar) on which appeared the profile of an unknown sea animal... and others which assured a frank success at the second season of the Strange, Strange World Pavilion.

Ivan, in his quest for rare pieces for an exhibition that he held to heart, stopped at nothing to find objects or spectacular elements. It was then that he made inquiries to the Danish to obtain the Cadavre of the Man of Tullund, one of the corpses found in the terrain and perfectly preserved, which was the topic of many books and articles.

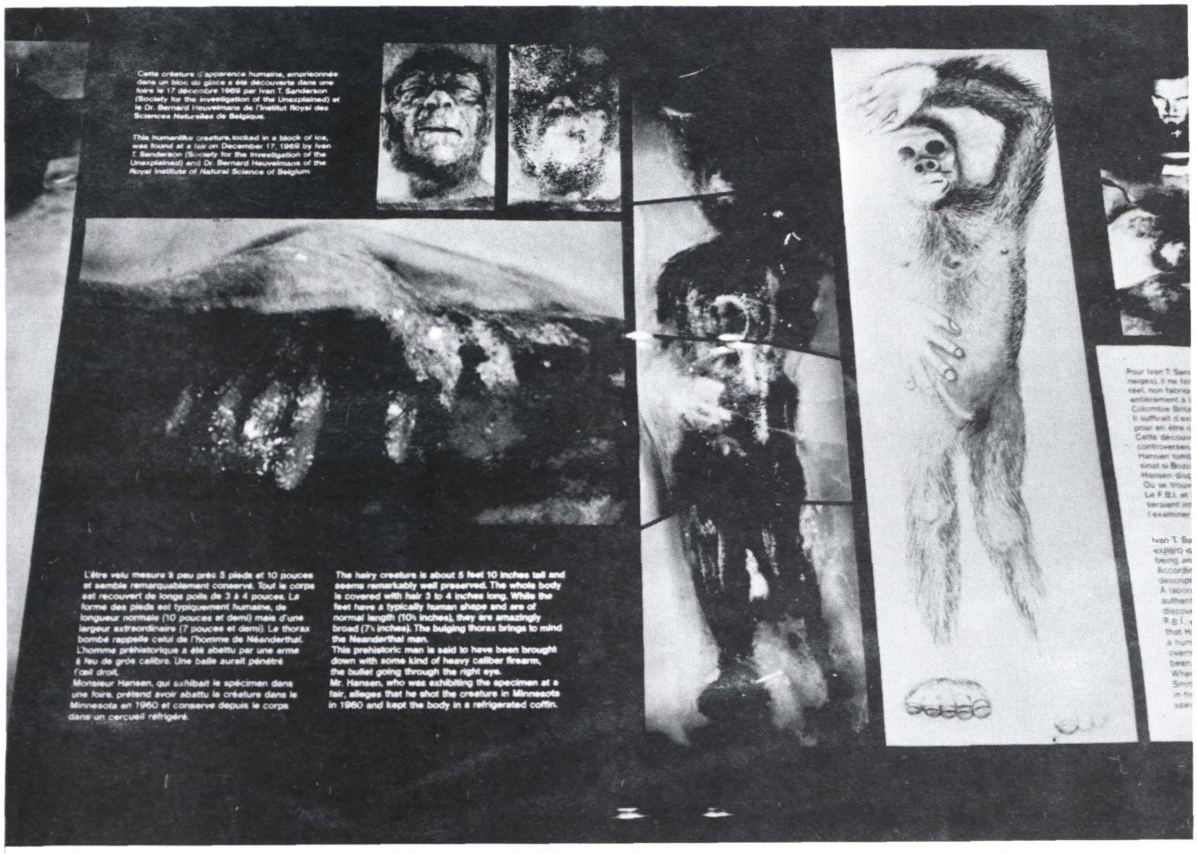
The enterprise proved futile... but he had tried.



Note ABSM tracks in concrete floor. These were made from "positives" of genuine prints found in the field.

Ancient Astronauts

Ringing Rocks



The Bozo Display

Like he had tried to procure Bozo for us, the ice man who was hidden by his owner and made the headlines of that era.

The arrival of Ivan and SITU was not only important from the documentation and exposition aspect. Ivan contributed a viable orientation and suggested, even taught us, an approach both scientific and objective: he prevented us from falling into a trap of sentimentality, which would have been very easy to do. On this basis his contribution was considerable and I will be eternally grateful to him.

Today, the pavilion is almost what Ivan wished: a sort of permanent Museum of the Unexplained which will inaugurate its seventh season with still more new subjects and even better presentation. Since two or three years we have accentuated the presentation of three dimensional, originals or reproductions.

What will the visitor find this year? The pavilion is divided into distinct sections, each abounding in another aspect. Upon entry the visitor is confronted with the eternal and anxious question "Are we alone in the Universe?" with a rapid but spectacular presentation of the principal realizations of space and recent discoveries of the planets in the Solar System.

But have we ever had visitors from other parts? A series of containers on exposition presenting enigmatic objects from the past: dogus statuettes from Japan, a Roman missile, a maya plane, a Greek computer, television tubes from Egypt... in this corner of the pavilion its most spectacular was a life size replica of "The Palenque Astronaut". This particular rock caused a lot of talk among the press, and the general public could admire it from up close!

In the center of the pavilion a complete section is reserved for Unidentified Flying Objects: Narrations of cases, simulation of a landing of humanoids on a country road, UFO detectors, illustrations and especially a replica in three dimensions of Mothman of West Virginia (6 feet in height). All the important aspects of the enigmas of the century are presented here for the satisfaction of all.

Another area of major interest for the SITU members is certainly that dedicated to sea monsters, abominable snowmen and other unknown creatures.

Several films are projected in the pavilion. On this year's agenda, let us mention, the film sequences filmed by the Mariner and Pioneer cameras (documents from Nasa), films lent to us by Nasa on the astronauts' moon walks etc. The audio-visual has been very well developed and all who are fascinated by the enigma of Sasquatch and his many cousins will find a sequence of the film "Legend of Boggy Creek" and other spectacular elements, always attracting visitors is a life size reproduction of the Coster Island giant. You can also admire a model of the giant "Tully Monster" a replica of the Loch Ness monster and others which I will let you discover by yourself on your next trip to Montreal!

During the course of years we have called many writers and specialists of international reputation. This is how we were given the collaboration of John A. Keel, Joseph Blumrich and this summer there is the question of...Erich Von Daniken who will present his interpretation of the dalle of Palenque!

But no organism, nor person has contributed as much to the success of the Pavilion as Ivan T. Sanderson!

Could we one day convert this pavilion, open only in the summer, into a permanent museum? The visitors will help us by coming in large number and by letting us know their impressions; their criticisms and their suggestions.

So, on your next holidays dear colleagues and co-members of SITU, you know where to go... Destination: STRANGE, STRANGE WORLD.

You won't regret it!

Translation: Linda Leonardo

BIOLOGY

SEA-SERPENT REPORTING DYNAMICS

by Ron Westrum

For the last twenty-eight years, American society (and several other societies as well) has debated the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects. Since 1933, the world has continued to hear of sightings of the Loch Ness Monster; since 1920, Western readers have pondered the existence of an Abominable Snowman—now better known in the form of his American relative, the Bigfoot. These more recent anomalies have put in the shade the subject which the Nineteenth Century felt merited the title of the "Great Unknown:" the sea-serpent.

The Twentieth Century has largely held "mass hysteria" to blame for the epidemics of anomaly reports which it has suffered. The skeptics of the Nineteenth Century, however, favored another explanation: newspapers and "the silly season." The Boston Weekly Messenger for July 23, 1818, for instance, reported that:

> Through the kind interference of the big Serpent or some of his associates are we again relieved from the disagreeable necessity of issuing a paper void of that qualification which constitutes the very name of newspaper . . . .

Andrew Wilson was even more explicit in 1882:

> In the dull season of the year, when there is a decided lack of interesting or startling events, and when newspaper editors are at their wits' end for material, three objects derived from the domain of the biologist have been credited with the task of reviving the tide of public interest and of restoring peace and composure to the editorial mind. It need hardly be said that the three objects alluded to

are: "the frog from the solid rock," "the gigantic gooseberry," . . . and the "reappearance of the great sea-serpent!"

It is our purpose here to enquire into the reality of this "silly season" and its relation to channels of communication. We will do so with the help of the literature on sea serpents, above all the definitive In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents by Bernard Heuvelmans (see bibliography). In the process we hope to clarify at least some of the issues involved in thinking about the relation of society and anomalies.

* * * * *

It is often assumed that sea-serpent sightings per se do not take place anymore. Actually, since 1800, reports have tended to average about three per year, although there have been peak periods, such as the American flap of 1817—1819; there have been more than 47 sighting reports since 1950, a figure which does not include Nessie or her inland relatives (see Heuvelmans, 1968, at 585). Most of these sightings in which we can determine the season, have taken place in summer time (see Table I).

Is summer, therefore, the "silly season?" If so, we would expect to find an outpouring of newspaper articles in the months of June, July, and August. Unfortunately, an adequate test of this proposition is not practical, since content studies of American newspapers over the relevant period are not available. We have chosen the next-best alternative, which is to

TABLE I

Season of Sea-Serpent Sighting
(Northern Hemisphere)

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Total
All Sightings	53% (185)	20% (69)	12% (40)	15% (53)	100% (328)
Hoaxes Subtracted	57% (173)	16% (49)	12% (36)	15% (44)	100% (302)

TABLE II

Season of Newspaper and Popular Magazine Articles on the Sea-Serpent

Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Total
25% (83)	33% (108)	14% (46)	28% (91)	100% (328)

TABLE III

Channel of First Report vs. Season of Sea-Serpent Sighting

	Season of Sighting				
Channel	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Totals
Newspapers	44% (79)	23% (42)	14% (25)	18% (33)	99% (179)
Scientific Journals	72% (34)	13% (6)	2% (1)	13% (6)	100% (47)
Non-Sea-Serpent Book	70% (19)	15% (4)	7% (2)	7% (2)	99% (27)
Sea Serpent Book	67% (27)	10% (4)	10% (4)	12% (5)	99% (40)
Magazine	20% (4)	40% (8)	15% (3)	25% (5)	100% (20)
Television	0	0	50% (1)	50% (1)	100% (2)

N = 315

examine the dates of newspaper and popular magazine articles cited in Heuvelmans' bibliography. While certainly far from constituting the entire universe of such articles, Heuvelmans' collection is as exhaustive as he could make it. Table II shows the distribution of these articles by season.

Table II gives little support to the proposition that summertime is the prime season of interest in sea-serpents, at least from the journalist's point of view. An even better grasp of the situation is possible if we examine the channels of communication through which our sea-serpent reports have reached society. Table III shows, to the best of our ability to determine, the first channel to mention a given sighting, compared to the season in which the sighting took place. The results are quite clear: summer is the predominant season for sightings to take place, regardless of the source through which the sightings are reported. The effect seems, if anything, even stronger for those media, such as books, which may not appear until years after the event.

Even if newspapers are not responsible, perhaps nonetheless a kind of "summer madness" exists which affects not only landsmen, but also sailors at sea, causing them to see monsters which do not exist. Such a disease might explain why Norwegians used to believe that the sea-serpent could most likely be seen on sunny summer days when the water was calm (Oudemans, 1892, at 129). Of course, since summer is a time when more people are out-of-doors, or on the decks of ships, it could also be that summer is the favored season because of the increased number of potential observers. Let us leave these speculations aside for the moment, however, and explore the relation between sightings and reporting a bit further.

The "Report Release" Phenomenon

Our previous remarks should have led the reader to suspect that the connection between a sighting and a report of the sighting is not as close as it might at first seem. This becomes even more clear when we consider that many sightings are not reported until years after they take place. The occasion for a report's release is often the publication of memoirs or other material of an autobiographical nature; but more commonly, it is the publication of someone else's report in a public channel. This "report release" phenomenon is most strongly seen after the publication of a popular magazine article on sea-serpents. Readers of the article who have had sightings themselves often write to the author of the article or the magazine, detailing their own experiences. This, in turn, gives the author more to write about in the future.

One example of report release is given by Ivan Sanderson's article "Don't Scoff at Sea Monsters," published by the Saturday Evening Post in 1947. As a result of this article, Sanderson received at least nine new reports, the median age of which was twelve years. The oldest was 46 years old (Heuvelmans, 1968, at 508). Similarly, a 1961 television panel discussion in England sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation elicited seven reports of comparable vintage (Heuvelmans, 1968, at 495). An even clearer example of the delays involved in reporting can be gleaned from the consideration of the more than 30 reports from the Vancouver, British Columbia, area.

Although the first sightings from this area date from 1912, the first public recognition of the phenomenon occurred in 1933, when two Canadian government officials stated that they had seen the creature, which was quickly dubbed "Cadborosaurus" (for Cadboro Bay). These two reports quickly released a flood of older reports, involving around a hundred witnesses. The atmosphere created by these revelations ensured good reporting for the next two decades, if we can judge by the number of sightings reported from this area between 1933 and 1959—sixteen. Even so, a 1912 report did not reach public attention until the 1960's, and a 1928 one remained submerged until 1954.

Conclusion

The full complexity of sea-serpent reporting is not possible to demonstrate in a paper of this length. In a longer paper, we treat these issues in more detail (Westrum and Scaife, 1974). Here we have merely indicated that the concept of the "silly season," at least as far as the sea-serpent is concerned, is much too simple to describe the phenomenon to which it is applied. In other work in progress by one of the authors (Westrum), a study of the controversies over several kinds of anomalies is being undertaken to study the relation between sighting, reporting, and belief in events which violate social criteria concerning what is real and what is not.

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*Heuvelmans has a very extensive bibliography. Another reference, for those who would like a short and readable introduction to the subject, is Rupert Gould, The Case for the Sea-Serpent (London: Phillip Allen, 1930). It has been recently reprinted by Singing Tree.

THE FLATHEAD LAKE MONSTER

by Tim Church

Introduction

The following report is the result of an extensive, but as yet incomplete, survey of reports of unidentified marine monsters in Flathead Lake, Montana. The area round the lake was opened to settlement by whites in 1910, and reports of the creatures have accrued steadily since that date. The lake was navigated by steamboats as early as 1880 and Indians inhabited the vicinity prior to that. The earliest reports made by whites originated with the steamboat crews, but it appears that the Indians recognized the existence of a large and unusual creature in the lake long before that. Descriptions of the creature reveal similarities with reports of other unidentified lake monsters.

In the traditions of the Kutenai Tribe of American Indians there is preserved a legend of a time long ago when food supplies became dangerously scarce during the freezing winter months. The elders of the tribe determined that the best chance for survival was to leave the islands in the midst of Flathead Lake which had been their home for generations. While the famished band fought across ice toward the shore, two maidens noted what they took to be an antler protruding from the frozen surface of the lake. Ignoring the protests of her companion, one of the women began to saw away the antler. As she was half through, the ice erupted around the scene and a huge monster emerged from the icy water, shaking its injured antlers in rage. The two maidens, who were well versed in the arts of witchcraft, turned themselves into a ball and a round buckskin target, respectively, and by this clever artifice made good their escape.

Another Indian legend, in the tradition of the Kalispell Indian tribe, tells of the adventure which befell a group of braves who were camped on the shore of the lake when a great monster rose out of the water and attacked them. The braves shot arrow after arrow at the beast, but the arrows merely bounced off. Seeing this the Indians turned and fled. All, that is, except for one particularly courageous warrior who stayed to fire his last arrow. The monster caught him and carried him down to the depths of the lake. From that time on the Indians preferred to fish in other lakes.

In 1885 James Kern, skipper of the U.S. Grant, the first steamboat to operate on the lake, spotted what he thought to be another boat coming toward him. As it drew nearer, he was startled to discover that what he thought was a boat was in fact a large animal with an appearance similar to a whale. A passenger grabbed a rifle and fired at the animal, but it immediately submerged and disappeared from sight.

Thirty four years later, in 1919, another steamboat nearly collided with an unknown marine animal. The captain of the City of Polson, on a run between Somers and Polson, saw what he supposed at first to be a giant log floating in the lake. He wheeled about to avoid it, and was astonished to see the "log" suddenly come to life and maneuver away from the steamboat. Fifty passengers caught a glimpse of it before it swam out of view.

In the 192C's commercial salmon trawling was started in the lake. There were frequent reports from the fishermen that their nets, which were designed for capturing 40 pound bull trout, were found shredded.

The May 27, 1937 issue of the local newspaper Flathead Courier carried a story concerning the experience of a certain Mr. L. J. Elkins. It seems that Mr. Elkins was fishing from a bridge over the Flathead River below Polson. While intently watching the river for signs of fish, he spotted a strange animal or fish swimming downstream. The creature was described as six to seven feet long, with long brown hair on its neck and broad head. The head was held out of the water as it swam. Elkins said that his first impression was that it was a large dog. He said that it most definitely was not a bear, beaver or otter, and it is probable that a sportsman living in this area could make such an identification easily.

The following is a chronological summary of monster sightings:

1949 — A group of tourists reported seeing a "seal" near Bigfork. Later, probably in August, a tourist told people in Somers that he had watched something as big as a Japanese two-man submarine pass close to the boat from which he was fishing. Several days later the H. W. Black family from Polson were returning when they spotted a "big fish", described as about 20 feet in length and very dark in color. In September several witnesses saw a similar creature, but gave it a length of 12 to 18 feet. A few days earlier Mr. and Mrs. Bob Racey of Big Arm struck an unknown object as they were boating on the lake. They turned back to investigate, but could not determine what their boat had struck.

1950 — two men riding in a speedboat saw the monster and gave chase. The monster threw up so much spray that the boat's engine was flooded. (This one sounds a bit far-fetched, but is included here for the record.)

1951 — On August 1, a "big fish" surfaced and sped in front of a boat filled with people on Skidoo Bay. The "fish" was reported to have thrown a spray of water 3 feet high and 20 feet long, which continued until it finally submerged in the middle of the bay.

1952 — In July two vacationers from Spokane reported a large "fish" breaking water in the Narrows, and thought that it was chasing something.

1955 — June, a Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gilbert said that while driving along the eastern shore of the lake they spotted what appeared to be an overturned boat. They

stopped the car, and upon closer inspection discovered that the appearance was actually two large "fish", the larger of the two being about 10 feet long. They observed the fish until they submerged. On the same day the Degolier family noticed what they also took to be an overturned boat off the east shore. Stopping to investigate, they found it to be a "large fish" rolling in the water. In September, a large group of fish were observed by a crowd of about 100 people. The witnesses apparently presumed that these fish were sturgeon, and gave the size of the fish as ranging from three to 12 feet.

1960 — Two men fishing in Indian Bay saw a big dorsal fin streaking through the water, and said that the fish had a length of about six feet. Mrs. C. E. Blankenhorn together with her father and her daughter, saw "something large in size swimming against the current" in a creek near the Polson golf course. The next Friday the Zigler family was lounging near the lake at the Polson country club when Mrs. Zigler noticed waves crashing against the shore. Because there was no wind or boats in the vicinity, they thought it strange and decided to investigate the source of the waves. Walking to a nearby pier, they saw "something" rubbing against the pilings as if scratching itself. Mr. Zigler then started back to the house for his rifle. Mrs. Zigler, alone but curious, went closer and was confronted with a "thing" which raised its head out of the water. "It was a horrible looking thing, with a head about the size of a horse... and about a foot of neck showing." She screamed at this sight, and her husband returned on the run, arriving just in time to see the creature swimming in an easterly direction at a "great rate of speed" with a very large wake. Mr. Zigler was familiar with sturgeon and stated that the creature he saw was definitely not that species. The following Friday the creature was reported in three locations. Lorin Nostad and Dick Schlatter reported "some kind of water going outfit" cavorting near Koss Landing at about 6:30 p. m., and several minutes later it was reported at other nearby docks. The Zigler family provided the third sighting, this time seeing it in the vicinity of the country club.

1962 — In September a group of five women were reported to have seen a large, fast moving object in Polson Bay. Maynard Nixon and his brother watched "some kind of swimming object, not a sturgeon, about 25 feet in length." They watched this creature, which had a triple hump, for 30 seconds as it swam past the old Polson City docks. Mr. Nixon stated that he had been very skeptical about the monster stories until that day. Two days later Mrs. A. D. Bartlett and her daughter sighted a large black object swimming off the old Polson city docks. They described it as jet black, with no fins, and not undulating in the water as a fish might.

1964 — July saw several attempts to catch and/or observe the monster in a fairly systematic fashion. A local fisherman attempted to catch the creature by using whole chickens and hunks of liver as bait, and a scuba diver four days searching the lake. Neither effort met with any success.

1965 — On August 1, Earl House and his son, visiting the lake from their home in California, were registering at a lakeside hotel at Polson when the receptionist noticed something passing an orange buoy in the lake. The receptionist followed the object with binoculars and saw that it swam with "up and down" movements and had a silvery dorsal fin. There were no boats in the area at the time.

On August 19, the E. E. Funke family were surprised to notice a strange body moving in the water past their dock. The creature had a large fin on its back and had a shiny black color. One of Mr. Funke's sons attempted to photograph it with a movie camera, but the "fish" disappeared before he was able to start filming. See p-32. Two days later an Oregon woman sighted a similar object in Indian Bay, and estimated that it was about 20 feet long, with a shiny black, long and narrow body.

1969 — In May, a Mrs. Verne Thomas of Dayton reported that she spotted a wide wake on the lake. Apparently the waves were being formed by a part of the creature protruding about 18 inches above the water. On June 1 two men who were crossing Polson Bay saw what initially appeared to be a log in the water. Approaching it slowly to avoid a collision, the men were amazed when the "log" suddenly shook and sped away. The men followed it until it submerged. On August 24 the Ron Buchanan family saw a 20 foot "fish" swim by their vantage point on the shore. They said it was gray in color, with a three foot top fin and a large tail.

1971 — On July 31, Ray Love spotted a 10 to 12 foot creature swimming near his dock. It was black on top, with yellow or buff underneath, and no scales were visible; the animal swam with an undulating motion.

1972 — A very brief local report of a large "fish" in Peaceful Bay.

1974 — In September an eight foot long "fish" was seen off Angel Point by several Lakeside residents. See O-11. An undated report, probably made in 1965, tells of a sighting by a Mr. and Mrs. Dean Howell, who saw a creature near Bird Island. "It was huge and it was black. But it couldn't have been a boat, it went up and down in the water, splashed around and circled."

In 1951 the inevitable happened. The Polson Chamber of Commerce got the brilliant idea of using the monster as a publicity gimmick to lure tourists and fishermen to the lake area. The potential tourists were led to believe that it was indeed a monster alive and well in the lake, and in a flash of genius, the Chamber tried to convince potential fishermen that the lake contained nothing less than a giant sturgeon. A promotional group calling itself Big Fish, Unlimited was formed to beat the drums for all this, and a $1000 reward was offered for the Giant Sturgeon. A mock Grand Jury investigation was held to determine if the creature really existed. Unfortu-

nately, all this nonsense tends to taint the authenticity of the reports made during the period from 1950 through 1955, when the promoters quietly folded their gaudy tents.

Flathead Lake is the largest lake in the northwestern United States, lying in Montana, where it was gouged out some two million years ago by the glaciers. As the ice receded it left a 500 foot high morain which is now at the foot of the lake, and at the same time the ice barriers damming Lake Missoula melted and released the lake's waters. Over the ages erosion and earthquakes transformed the lake into its present state.

The lake is 27 miles long and 15 miles wide, with a total area of 188 square miles and 123 miles of shoreline. It is nearly 350 feet deep in some places and maintains a temperature of 37 degrees. At the northern end the glacier-fed Flathead River and Swan River flow into the lake. At the southern end the Flathead River flows out, and about five miles downstream is the Kerr Dam. The river ultimately joins the Columbia River and continues to the Pacific coast.

The lake is surrounded by a number of small towns and summer homes dot the shore. Roads run fairly close to the lake throughout its circumference, with the exception of the north end where the terrain is marshy.

A number of suggestions have been made by way of explaining these puzzling reports, and more will be said on this further on. The most persistent explanation is that the witnesses have seen a giant sturgeon. This seems to make some sense but it poses almost as serious a dilemma as does the possible existence of a totally unknown marine animal in the lake.

There are 22 species of fish common to Western Montana, the largest being the white sturgeon, Acipenser Transmontanus. This, the authorities insist, is the only sturgeon found in Western Montana. The White Sturgeon grow slowly, but can become 16 feet in length and weigh from 300 to 1000 pounds. They are mainly an ocean fish but can remain landlocked, in which event they feed primarily on other fish and crustaceans. They are dark gray in color, with a pale belly, appear armored due to their bony plates, and have one dorsal fin, two lateral fins, and two ventral fins. The sturgeon's habits are not too well known, but it has been established that their spawning season runs from spring to early summer.

Whether the sturgeon inhabit Flathead Lake is the subject of intense controversy. In his book Fish Guide to Intermountain Montana , George F. Weisel states that "There is no possibility that sturgeon can swim up the Columbia to the lake (Flathead Lake)." A sturgeon was allegedly caught in the lake in 1955. This fish was seven and a half feet long and weighed 181 pounds, but there is reason to believe that it was a spurious product of the publicity generating operation mentioned previously. Mr. Weisel puts it thus; "...and it is hardly conceivable that this apparently young specimen could have attained its size landlocked in a lake so poor in food." So it seems that everywhere we turn the Flathead Lake mystery becomes murkier.

Other fish in the lake include several species of trout, catfish and salmon, the largest of these being the salmon which attain a maximum weight of about five pounds. I have no definite information on microorganisms in the lake, but because the lake is glacier-fed it is unlikely that it is rich in these. Beaver and otter inhabit the area, but there seems no reasonable connection between these animals and the monster reports.

The "monster" is almost always described as black in color, with some reports telling of a yellow underbelly. Only the 1937 report gives the color as brown. The reported size varies from three to 25 feet, with the most widely reported size being six to eight feet. Witnesses have been disappointingly vague about the body shape. Four reports show a dorsal fin colored either black or silvery, but no other fins have been mentioned. Only the Zigler sighting provides any idea of the creature's head, and in this case the witnesses said it was the size of a horse head, leaving the shape of the head to conjecture. A tail appears in only one report.

A rather common characteristic is the animal's great speed and playfulness in the water. Only two reports describe more than one creature: in one instance two were seen, in another case a total of 36 were sighted. Sightings predominate in the month of September, although reports have been made throughout the year. Apparently the most active year for sightings was 1960.

It is natural that a great deal of speculation has been advanced to explain the phenomenon giving rise to all these reports in Flathead Lake. Those who are familiar with the variety of ingenius theories attempting to explain the Loch Ness sightings will not be surprised to learn that some people in the lake area are convinced that a miniature submarine is being piloted by persons unknown, and for purposes unknown, other than perhaps the befuddlement of the populace. A seal may very well have been seen by the fisherman in the 1937 report. Sturgeon would seem to be a fairly good candidate for the monster reports, or at least the most reasonable suggestion thus far, but there are many discrepancies here in addition to the failure of anyone to catch a sturgeon over the very long period during which the lake has been extensively fished. Even if we can credit the sturgeon mentioned previously, it would seem very strange that only one should be brought up in all these years. Of course, no one has yet hooked or otherwise captured a "monster" in the lake, either.

The Montana newspapers have linked the Flathead monster sightings to similar reports from Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin, where a large sturgeon was said to be the cause. Without further investigation it would seem a bit premature, however, to accept this explanation at face value. Since the giant sturgeon would have to subsist mainly on other fish, I thought that

the peak of "monster" sightings ought to occur in the salmon spawning season. This, however, occurs in November and December, while the greatest number of monster sightings take place in September, with August the month in which sightings occur with the next highest frequency.

It should be emphasized that this is only a preliminary report, based in the main on newspaper accounts. In the near future I intend to interview as many witnesses as possible to further document the phenomenon and to obtain more detailed descriptions. I would very much appreciate receiving comments from the readers of Pursuit. Please write to me at P. O. Box 932, Missoula, Montana 59801.

OLIVER – AN UNUSUAL APE

By Robert E. Jones

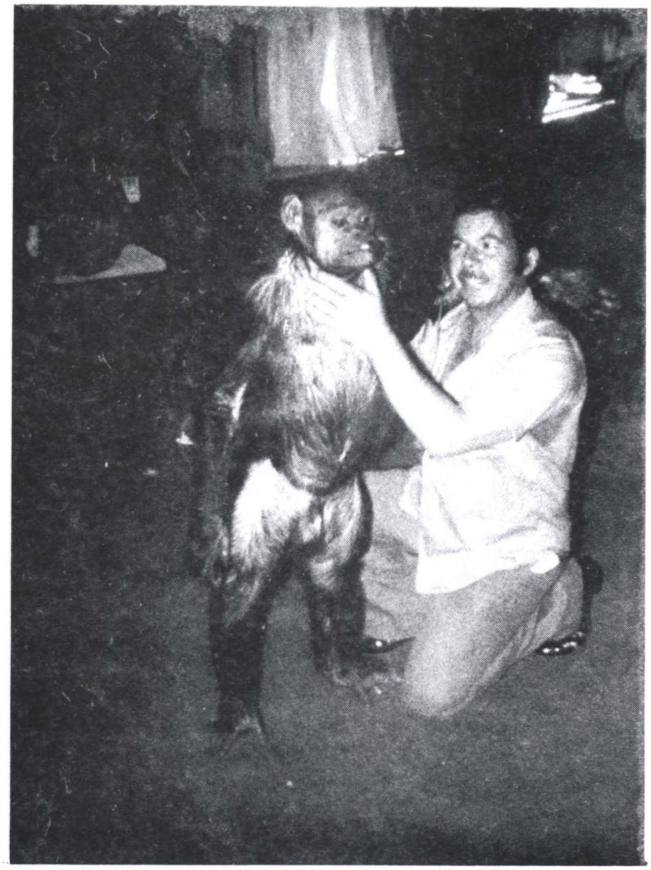
Thanks to a letter from an alert SITU member, I and another member, Mr. Jim McGrath, an employee of a zoo in New Jersey, spent a fascinating five hours with a South African hunter/guide, his charming wife, and their pet – a very unusual ape named Oliver.

The meeting took place at Sterling Forest Gardens near Tuxedo, New York. Frank Burger, the owner of Oliver, has an "animal act" which consists of a group of trained dogs in one show and chimpanzees in another. When he is not traveling on the show business circuit in the U.S., Frank returns to his native South Africa to collect animal specimens and to act as a guide for hunters.

Oliver is featured in the Chimpanzee act, but he doesn't quite fit in with his simian colleagues. There are some things about Oliver that puzzle Frank Burger, and he is eager to find somebody who can solve some of the mysteries presented by Oliver's apparently anomalistic physical appearance and behavior.

Oliver is an ape, and in a general way he resembles a chimpanzee. But when he is placed next to a chimpanzee the differences are immediately obvious. To begin with, Oliver is said to be a biped. According to Berger, in the seven years of Oliver's life he has never "gone on all fours." Whether one can credit this statement fully is one thing, but I can testify that during our limited observation Oliver remained upright. There are pads on his knuckles for the "normal" quadruped mode of walking, but the pads appear to be unused.

The physical appearance of Oliver is quite unusual. He does not have pronounced buttocks as do humans. There is an extreme lack of hair on the top of his head and very little hair on his chest, a condition that makes him susceptible to sunburn. His lower face does not have the typical roundness found in chimpanzees. Instead, it is squared off both in the area of the chin and along the jaw line. The eyes and the ears are also not chimp-like, but here the differences are more subtle. And finally, his head is slightly domed, with the top of the skull having an egg shape.



Two views of Oliver

Interesting though these physical peculiarities are, it is Oliver's behavior and "mentality" that we found most unusual. His owner describes him as being two or three times as intelligent as a fully developed chimpanzee. Oliver is said to be toilet trained. That is, he uses a toilet, wipes himself, and then flushes the toilet. Mr. Burger also claimed that when given a quarter Oliver walks upright up a nearby hill, finds the soda machine, selects a particular brand, operates the machine, pops the can, and then drinks the soda. As a general rule, we are told, he can perform many such tasks after being led through one complete demonstration. We were able to verify some of this during our inspection of the animal.

In fact, both Mr. McGrath and I had a very strong impression of nearly human communication with Oliver while we were with him. He seems to display a strong attachment for humans, though this is probably the result of his long experience with humans.

Mr. Burger told us that a number of scientists have observed Oliver but that they have been unable to form a definite opinion to explain his unusual appearance and behavior. Plans have been made for a series of tests to be made at a university in New York in an effort to get some definitive answers to the enigma of Oliver.

The question boils down to this: is Oliver a new species of ape? Could he be a cross between two different types of ape? The specialists at the university who will be testing Oliver have suggested tentatively that he might be a mongoloid chimpanzee. This hypothesis seems difficult to accept in view of his very high intelligence. We tend to favor the cross-breed concept, though this too presents considerable difficulties, and we would suggest that he might be a cross between a chimpanzee and a Sehite (or Agogwe), the pygmy ABSM reported for many years in Central Africa. In any event, we will keep tabs on developments in this case and present these in future issues of Pursuit.

THE "FISH FALLS" OF YORO, HONDURAS

By Ron Dobbins

Most members of SITU are probably familiar with the fact that fish and other creatures occasionally fall from the sky without very much warning or explanation. In fact, G. W. Gudger, a research associate in ichthyology (fish!) with the American Museum of Natural History in New York unaccountably became interested in this subject many years ago and published several articles on it. See Natural History (New York), Vol. 21, 1921, pp. 607-619, Vol. 22 (January 1922) page 84, Annals and Mag. Nat. History, 10th Series, Vol. 3, No. 13 (January 1929), pp. 1-25, Scientific Monthly, Vol. 29 (December 1929) pp. 523-7, among others. He concluded that some of the data were "hearsay" and therefore not veridical, while others could only be accounted for by the "up-and-down-in-a-whirlwind" theory.

At any rate, the most fantastic story that so far has come to my attention on this subject is one popularized by the late author and media personality Frank Edwards in his book Strange World (Ace Books, 1964, p. 157), the so-called "fish-falls of Yoro, Honduras.

In May of 1974 I received from the Honduran Academy of Geography and History a full scientific report entitled "The Rains of Fishes of Yoro." Although it is a bit long, I have translated it into English from the original Spanish in order to put this particular instance of alleged "fish-falls" into proper perspective.

The study is based on observations made at Yoro in the years 1961-62 by several scientists, including a U.S. meteorologist, under the auspices of the Honduran Meteorological Service. The 1962 investigation included an actual vis-a-vis eyewitness account of the phenomenon by the savants.

It seems that the unexciting conclusion to this story is simply that the fish are a local (and tasty) variety of sardine which migrates up the local river (the Aguan) every year, probably in order to spawn, are caught in a swampy area near Yoro during the local rain-squalls, and consequently leap out of the water to their untimely ends. The report adds that they apparently are able to sense minute changes in air pressure in order to predict the coming of the storm, as are certain varieties of birds in their migrations. One also thinks here of the ocean-going grunion which must come up on land in order to lay its eggs; and the salmon and certain species of eel, which live in the sea, but spawn a considerable distance inland and up-river.

Since, in the case of the Yoro phenomenon, the the fish can be seen swimming up the Aguan just before the "fall," there doesn't seem to be much doubt about the cause of the fabled "rain of fishes of Yoro, Honduras."

THE RAINS OF FISHES OF YORO

One of the phenomena known for many years and which forms part of our folklore is the curious phenomenon called "the rain of fishes," which displays itself almost every year one and a half kilometers to the southeast of the picturesque city of Yoro Honduras .

This event, almost annual, distinguishes itself from other phenomena which present themselves in various places in Honduras by the fact that the fish do not emanate from subterranean currents or watery strata of the earth, that with the rain squalls make the surface soft, and the fish come out that develop underneath.

The phenomenon of Yoro also is notable because it appears to be strictly associated with the most powerful squall of the rainy season of Yoro, to such a degree that the Yorenos know perfectly well the cloud that "brings over fishes" and that at the moment it goes through the valley, the wind associated with it

produces a typical sound, whereof the ground is rather obscure and very turbulent. A person who should witness this phenomenon, due to the natural events that develop in this moment, would swear that the fish come with the cloud, owing to the rare association of the atmospheric condition with the later quantity of fish which are encountered, jumping, after the squall.

However, our National Meteorological Service, entrusted with everything related to the atmospheric phenomena which occur in our country, began to study this phenomenon. First, they performed studies previous to the atmospheric condition in the period which exhibits the phenomenon, by means of analysis of the shallow atmosphere surrounding the area of Yoro, and the climatological data and atmospheric phenomena which govern our territory in this period. It maintained the evidence of a small but weak center of lower pressure which returns semi-permanently over the valley of Yoro, precipitating the formation of heavy storm clouds. This weak center of lower pressure separates itself from the low pressure front that positions itself along the length of the Pacific Coast of Central America during the squally season and, that other times, these small centers go through the country toward the Gulf of Honduras and subsequently are transformed into tropical storms. Yet the idea is actually prevalent that the fish of Yoro are carried by "marine waterspouts from the Atlantic Ocean." From the previous study of the meteorological theory it was known beforehand that this is not possible and that such an idea can be scientifically refuted.

Finally the Meteorological Service sent one of their technicians and one climatologist to the theater of the events. At the time of the year 1961 the meteorologist Edgardo Zuniga Andrade together with an American meteorologist, Martin Rossemblatt, went to obtain data investigating among the people of Yoro in order to amplify the studies of atmospheric analysis of the following year.

For the year 1962 the same meteorologist, accompanying the climatologist Hector Garay Moncada, had the privilege to witness the phenomenon and to completely verify the conclusions which had been reached in the previous studies.

The purpose of studying this phenomenon was one of approaching an understanding of the mechanism of its formation, the verification that the appearance of fish after the squall does not form part of some meteorological phenomenon, but more the wonderful is Mother Nature where the ancestral costume of an animal unites itself with the unleashing of the atmospheric forces. The public ought to know about this very special peculiarity of one of our regions and, once comprehended fully, can be of great attraction to our own people and foreigners, augmenting the number of tourists Yoro will have and giving the satisfaction of investigating a very curious phenomenon of nature.

Here is what the meteorologist observed on his last visit to the city of Yoro:

1) The fish which were exhibited after the squall are all of the same type (whereupon it is deduced that it is not connected with marine waterspouts, since if it went in this way, different types of fish would be presented.

2) The force of the wind does not exceed the velocity of the winds of tornadoes or marine waterspouts, nor reaches velocities greater than 40 knots.

3) No trace of vegetation exists that establishes the previous passage of tornadoes.

4) No meteorological phenomenon follows an exact trajectory. No waterspout would be able to traverse the same route every year.

5) The type of cloud originating in the weak center of lower pressure that crosses the valley of Yoro has been exhibited in other parts of the country and the world. This cloud is known by the scientific name of mammato-cumulonimbus, due to the fact that its base has the appearance of nipples, owing to its great instability, which gives it the dark violet color besides the sound of the descending wind.

6) The fish show themselves making good use of the great quantity of falling water which trickles toward the streamlets Machigua and Jalegua that flow out of the Aguan River.

7) The fish are not blind, not arising therefore from underground waters. This type of fish exists commonly in the rivers of the region. The natives call them "boat fish." Their size does not exceed 11 centimeters and clearly are recognized as a variety of sardine.

8) No one has seen the fish falling from the cloud at the moment of the phenomenon and have not fallen upon one roof of the houses of Yoro, a distance of only a kilometer and a half from the place.

9) The distribution of the mountains and their elevations around the valley of Yoro do not allow, at any time, that any marine waterspout is able to reach Yoro without before having destroyed its own wind funnel, owing to the different temperatures that follow the air in its path, on account of the change of pressure with the height. This would come about as much in Yoro as in any other place on earth with high mountains.

10) The fish swim against the current of water that trickles to the tributaries of the Aguan River, whose dirty water does not allow us to see them clearly.

11) The fish that are gathered after the rain squall, persist in jumping, without showing any wound due to the fall from an average height of 2,000 feet from the cumulonimbus cloud.

12) The precise place of the phenomenon is part of the city district of Yoro called "The Swamp," where there exist little ponds of water, from the last squalls previous to the phenomenon.

13) In the region of the phenomenon the grass grows up and is so compact in the dry season that it does not present "fissures" i.e., openings .

14) The running of the water of the fallen rain is

due to the fact that the valley has an inclination toward the northwest, compelling the water to move toward the streamlets.

15) Owing to the great electrical activity the Yorenos are not given to moving themselves toward the place of the events, except after the end of the storm.

16) Other persons of the area adjacent to the city of Yoro have had the rare opportunity of seeing the schools of fishes advancing against the current of the Aguan River, in their movement toward the place of the phenomenon, one day before.

CONCLUSIONS

One arrives after the finishing of the study at the conclusion that the fish have the ancestral habit, since times past of going to die at the southeast of the valley of Yoro and that for their going out to this place they make good use of their natural sensitivity to the changes of pressure, determining the presence of the center of the weakening of lower pressure semi-seasonably in Yoro, they use the influence of the mammato-cumulonimbus cloud, besides the great quantity of water fallen from the strongest rain squall, in order to leap to earth against the current.

The fish then, are able to proceed from the Atlantic Ocean. They pass through the Aguan River and are guided to the valley of Yoro with the purpose of dying there and are not transported in the storm cloud. It is necessary however that an expert in matters of fish, that is to say, an ichthyologist, continue the study of these edible fish that are the pride of the Yorenos.

OCTOPUS GIGANTEUS VERRILL

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

This paper describes the discovery of a "sea monster" washed ashore in 1896, the controversy surrounding the nature of the carcass, and its recent identification as a gigantic Cephalopod. The events in this case follow the typical fortean "monster" scenario in which a very unusual carcass is found and orthodox scientists dismiss it without proper examination. Some 67 years after the remains were discovered, a histological examination of preserved tissues revealed that the "monster" was indeed an Octopus of unknown species and enormous dimensions.

In the evening of November 30, 1896, Herbert Colee and Dunham Coreter of St. Augustine, Florida were bicycling along Anastasia Beach when they came upon an immense carcass deeply embedded in the sands. Their discovery would probably have gone unnoticed, consigned to the limbo of the countless other strange heaps of flesh found washed on shores and then forgotten, were it not for the happy circumstance that the boys reported the find to a local amateur naturalist, Dr. DeWitt Webb.

By profession a physician, and by avocation a historian and "naturalist" in the best sense of that now nearly obsolete line of endeavor, Dr. Webb founded the St. Augustine Historical Society and served as its President for 34 years. When he took upon himself the responsibility for collecting and recording the facts about the puzzling carcass, Webb became the central figure in what would prove to be a major scientific controversy of his day.

Dr. Webb was advised immediately of the find, but because of the distance to the site he was unable to begin his investigation until the next evening, December 1. Due to the small number of visitors to the beach during the winter months it is probable that the carcass had been ashore for several days before its discovery. Although the mass was estimated to weigh five and a half tons, and a considerable portion of it was under sand. the visible portions measured 23 feet in length, four feet in height,and 18 feet across the widest part of the back. It was mutilated at one end and in the process of decomposition. The outer surface or hide was of a light pink, nearly white color, with a somewhat silvery tome. After making his preliminary examination Webb came to the astonishing conclusion that the mass was the remains of a monstrous octopus.

Cloudy weather and rain prevented Dr. Webb from examining the octopus until December 5th. Two days later he again visited the site, bringing along two photographers, Mr. Edgar Van Horn and Mr. Ernest Howatt, who took several photographs. Drawings based on these photographs were published shortly thereafter.

One drawing shows the carcass from a side view, with the posterior end gradually tapering to the stumps of two barely discernible arms. In the second drawing the reason for Webb's conclusion that the carcass was that of an octopus, or possibly of some other enormous marine invertebrate, becomes clear. This drawing shows a pear-shaped body with its largest section near the broadly rounded posterior end, flattening toward the smaller mutilated end. Because of mutilation and decay, the "head" is almost unrecognizeable as shown in the end view, but the most obvious feature is what appears to be the remains of the stumps of five arms. The person in the background (probably Dr. Webb) gives an indication of the size of the carcass.

Several days after these photographs were taken, a certain Mr. Wilson claimed that he had done some excavating near the carcass and found fragments of arms. Unfortunately, neither Dr. Webb nor anyone else accompanied Wilson, and thus there was no corroboration for this extremely important claim. In a written report made to Dr. Webb, Wilson stated the following: "One arm was lying west of the body, 23 feet long; one stump of arm, west of body, about four feet; three arms lying south of body and from appearance attached to the same (although I did not dig quite to the body as it laid well down in the sand, and I was very tired). The longest arm measured over 32 feet, and the other arms were three to five feet shorter."

Shortly after Mr. Wilson's examination a severe storm washed the carcass out to sea, but it was cast ashore again two miles further south. When the carcass was inspected at the new site the arms were missing, probably as a result of the battering of the sea. Doubts about the existence of these arms (as something other than a figment of Mr. Wilson's imagination) would later cloud the entire issue and make Dr. Webb's other claims suspect.

Dr. Webb now began writing a series of letters in an attempt to interest professional scientists in the carcass. The earliest of these letters of which we have a record is dated December 8, 1896, and is addressed to a Mr. J. A. Allen. A portion of the letter reads: "You may be interested to know of the body of an immense Octopus thrown ashore some miles south of this city. Nothing but the stump of the tentacles remain, as it had evidently been dead for some time before being washed ashore. As it is, however, the body measures 18 feet in length by 10 feet in breadth. Its immense size and condition will prevent all attempts at preservation. I thought its size might interest you, as I do not know of the record of one so large."

Whitehead forwarded the letter to Addison Emery Verrill, Professor of Zoology at Yale University. Verrill was famous as a systematic zoologist, and during his lifetime he published over 350 articles and papers on zoological subjects and was credited with classifying more than 1000 new species. He is best known, however, for his studies of cephalopods, and in particular for establishing the existence of the giant squids.

Professor Verrill was indeed interested in the discovery, and published a notice concerning it in the January, 1897 issue of the American Journal of Science. Based on the description given by Webb, Verrill concluded that the remains were those of a giant squid, rather than an octopus, but nevertheless a squid considerably larger than the Newfoundland specimens he had examined in the 1870's. In 1879 Verrill had remarked in a treatise on the octopus that none had ever been examined that was as large as the giant squid.

Upon receipt of additional information from Webb, however, Verrill reversed his preliminary opinion. Writing in the Sunday Supplement to the New York Herald for January 3, he recounted the description supplied by Webb, including the report of an arm 36 feet long by 10 inches in diameter at its broken extremity, and estimated that the intact arm must have measured 75 to 100 feet in length, with a diameter of 18 inches at the base. Thus the octopus must have had a span of approximately 200 feet.

Verrill formally presented this new species of giant cephalopod in the February issue of the American Journal of Science. In this paper he relied heavily on the photographs of the carcass which showed an eight-armed cephalopod. He suggested that the newly discovered giant species may provide food for the sperm whales off the southern coast of North America.

The new species was named Octopus giganteus, a rather apt name, though one which ignored the tradition of honoring the discoverer, in this case Dr. Webb. Verrill thought that the species might be related to the Cirroteuthis, since the two posterior stumps shown in the front photographic view suggested the remains of lateral fins and were too far back to be arms. On the other hand, they might simply be arms twisted out of their true position. The observations made by Mr. Wilson would seem to support this view.

Although he concluded his paper by stating that this was the first giant octopid described from an actual specimen, Verrill was later to change his opinion dramatically.

While he was corresponding with Professor Verrill, Webb was writing a series of letters describing his efforts to study the carcass to Professor William Healey Dall, Curator of Mollusks at the National Museum in Washington, D.C. Seven of these letters have been preserved. Their importance lies in the way they show the extremely careful and detailed examinations Webb carried out, at considerable personal expense. Webb's earliest known letter, undated but written in early January, reads as follows: "Your very instructive letter is at hand. I send you by this mail some new photographs which may help you in determining the character of the specimen. I spent the greater part of two days with a corps of photographers, that is one professional and several amateurs, with a lot of help, but found as I wrote Mr. True that all of us with the aid of strong tackle could not even turn the monster over. We could with a dozen men pulling at the ropes only partly raise it as you will see. I have another scheme which I hope to accomplish if I can raise the funds and that is to draw it by means of horses and a windlass farther up the bank entirely out of the pit so that the hood can be spread out and then I hope to be able to get men to cut through the enormously thick hide which measures in some places 3½ inches in thickness and so open the whole thing up. The hood is so tough that when it is exposed to the air an axe makes very little impression upon it. Judging from the difficulty of moving it it must weigh 6 or 7 tons for 12 men with a block and tackle ought to move anything less." The remainder of the letter is missing.

Webb's second and longest letter, dated January 17th: "Owing to defective light the photographer was unable to complete the printing of the photographs to his satisfaction until yesterday. They will be forwarded to you tomorrow (Monday) by Express and I think you will be pleased with them as he has taken great pains with them. I shall soon, however, be able to send pictures of still greater value. Yesterday I took four horses, six men, 3 sets of tackle, a lot of heavy planking and a rigger to superintend the work and succeeded in rolling the invertebrate out of the pit and placing it about 40 feet higher up on the beach where it now rests on the flooring of heavy plank. After getting it out we found it on being straightened out to measure twenty-one feet instead

of eighteen as I first reported to you. A good part of the mantle or head remains attached near to the more slender part of the body. This was spread out as much as possible. The body was then opened for the entire length of 21 feet as you will see by the new photographs yet to be sent. The slender part of the body was entirely empty of internal organs. And the organs of the remainder were not large and did not look as if the animal had been so long dead as it appeared to have been when first washed ashore some six weeks since. The muscular coat which seems to be about all there is of the invertebrate is from two and three to six inches in thickness. The fibers of the external coat are longitudinal and the inner transverse. There was no caudle fin or any appearance as if there had been any. There was no beak or head or eyes remaining. There was no pen to be found nor any evidence of any bony structure whatever. It is still in a comparatively good state of preservation and so would it not be a good thing for yourself or Prof. Verrill of Yale or both of you to come down and examine it for yourself and so determine its exact place better than I can. I think too that as our Museum here is quite small, and this invertebrate is something of a cosmopolitan, whether it would not be better for the Smithsonian or Yale to have it as there is still time for its preservation and its weight will not be so great after the thick hide is partially dried. Indeed I do not see why it should not be set up. If you think of coming at all you ought to come at once. I have written a similar letter to Prof. Verrill. You see I have said invertebrate rather than squid because it is entirely safe." And in a postscript, "I send you a specimen of what in the picture looks like hair covering the hood but which you will see looks like the fiber of dried tendons. It completely covers the hood."

The reference to a lack of a "pen" — a mass of cartilage found in squids and shaped somewhat like a quill pen — gave support to the conviction that the carcass was not that of a giant squid. The absence of any other bony structure would eliminate the possibility that it was a mammal. Incredibly, neither Professor Dall nor Professor Verrill accepted the offer to visit the site for a personal examination. In Verrill's case this might have been the result of a very busy schedule or the refusal of Yale to pay for the trip. We do know that Dall was frustrated by his employer, the Smithsonian. A letter to Webb from Mr. Y. A. True says: "I am sorry to say that the Secretary does not see his way clear to have the cuttlefish examined at the cost of the Institution and the Museum can scarcely afford the expense at this time. Could not measurements, etc., be made by Dr. Webb and some specimens saved?"

A brief letter from Webb dated 18 January: "I sent by express this afternoon the pictures. The delay was in consequence of the care necessary to properly develop them. I trust they will reach you all right." I think I made one mistake in my description. The external muscular layer is circular and the internal longitudinal. I was obliged to go dow in hot haste this morning to make a legal claim of it as one of the men who go about giving shows was going down and have it cut up and bring it up as a show. I went down and staked it around and put ropes around it and put up a notice that it was in my possession so that I do not think there will be any more trouble." Unfortunately, Dr. Webb's revised description of the musculature was not characteristic of either whales or the octopus.

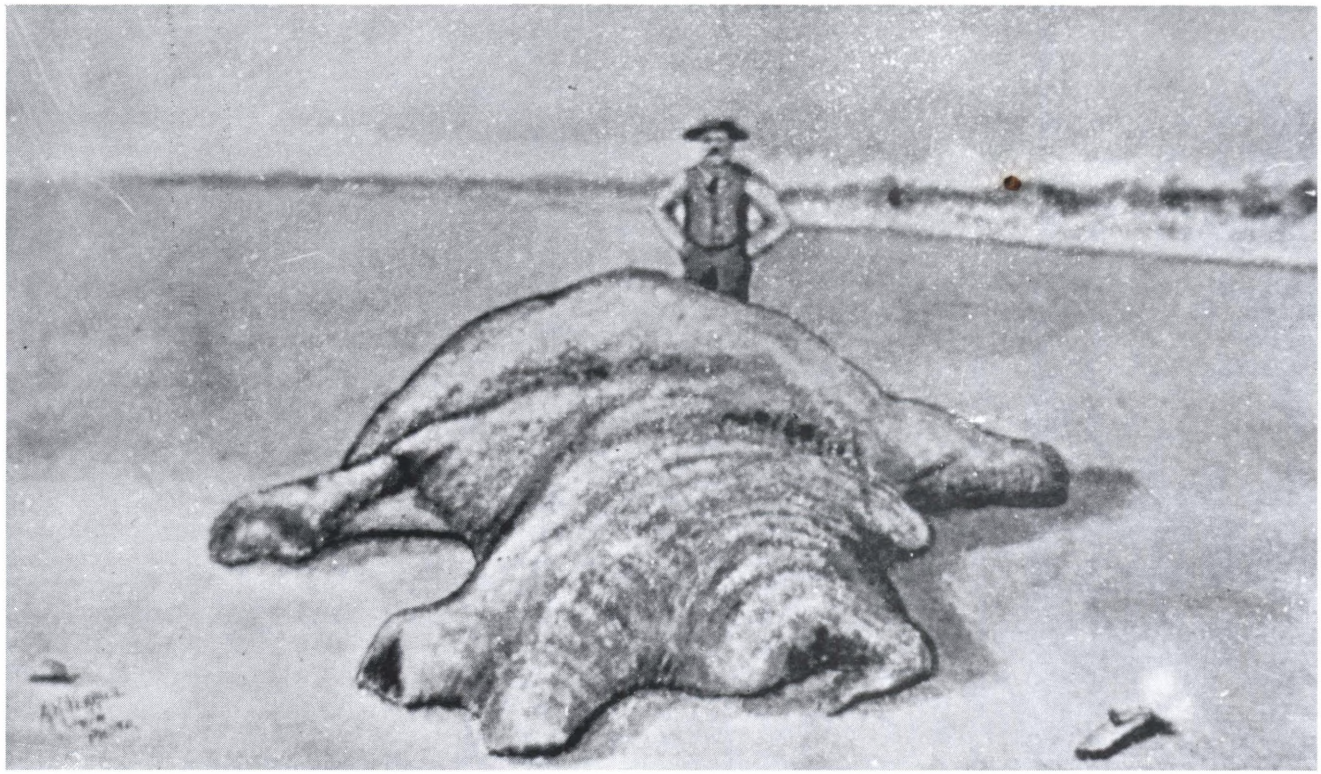
On the following day, the 19th, a notice appeared in a St. Augustine newspaper, based on information supplied by Dr. Webb, to the effect that both Dall and Verrill had stated that the carcass was that of the largest invertebrate animal ever recorded. Three weeks later Webb wrote to Dall: "I made another excursion to the invertebrate and brought away specimens for you and for Prof. Verrill of Yale. I cut two (2) pieces of the mantle and two (2) pieces from the body and have put them in a solution of formalin for a few days before I send them to you. Although strange as it may seem to you I could have packed them in salt and sent them to you at once although the creature had been lying on the shore for more than two months. And I think that both yourself and Prof. Verrill while not doubting my measurements have thought my account of the thickness of the muscular, or rather tendenous husk pretty large so I am glad to send you the specimens and will express them packed in salt in a day or two. Had I not better send all the specimens to you, and you send two (2) to Prof. Verrill and keep two (2) for the Smithsonian?"

"Please write to me at once as to this as it will save me some trouble and give you the opportunity of examining all four specimens. My time has been so limited when I have gone down that I have been unable to make a satisfactory examination of the viscera. Indeed it seems to be all stomach with (—) firmly attached to the external husk or hull as you will see by the examination of the specimens."

"I have a scheme on foot which I propose to put into immediate execution and that is to bring the entire creature up to the beach some six miles nearer the end of the little railroad that runs from the city and have a man take care of it charging a small fee that will reimburse him and enable me to have him properly display it. To do this it will be necessary to turn the animal over after taking out the viscera and lift up the mantle or hood so that the display will be better. As it is now, the pictures convey a very poor idea of it."

Again, Webb to Dall, February 10: "Yours of the 8th at hand as also one from Mr. True. I will ship the specimens to you tomorrow. They have been in the solution of formalin for several days. I think you will be interested in them. I expect to have the creature moved up in a day or two when it can be put be in better shape for examination. Prof. Verrill has decided to call it the Octopus Giganteus."

"I wrote to Prof. True to the expense of formalin in quantity as there will have to be a good deal used in the attempts to have the creature preserved. It will



Carcass of the Octopus, end view, based on a photograph taken December 7, 1896.

be worth while to make a good deal of effort if it is the 'only one'."

Webb to Dall, February 12; "The box with the specimens from the Octopus Giganteus was shipped this afternoon by Express to Mr. True, who as the curator in charge, was I thought the proper person to send it to. There are two (2) pieces of the hide or hull which as you will find is in one part 10½ inches thick and two (2) pieces of the hood or mantle."

"In a few days I will be able to send you photos of the creature which will give you a much better idea of its actual appearance than the others. It is now in the process of removal."

While the specimens were in transit, Verrill published a second Sunday Supplement article in the New York Herald for February 14, entitled "A Sea Monster Off Florida's Coast." This article is important in that it is Verrill's only published account of his speculations as to the size, habitat and population density of the giant octopus. Verrill estimated the live weight of the fully grown creature at something like 18 to 20 tons, with arms at least 100 feet long, having hundreds of suckers on each arm, eyes about one foot in diameter, and some ten gallons of ink in its bag. As to the habitat of the octopus, Verrill surmised that this would be comprised of the broad plateau that extends out to sea about 200 miles off the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Northern Florida, in depths of 200 fathoms, where it would crawl over the ocean floor in search of food. Verrill assumed that this species of octopus was itself the food for sperm whales, who use the same general ground, and that the specimen found by Dr. Webb had met its demise in a battle with a hungry sperm whale.

It may seem a bit odd today to find a scientist of Verrill's reputation writing articles for the Sunday Supplements at such a rapid pace, but the fact is that his salary as a professor at Yale was simply not sufficient to meet the needs of his family. Verrill was obliged to turn out a great deal of written material for the popular readership as a means of augmenting his meager teaching salary. His reputation was, of course as much on the line in the newspaper articles as it was when he wrote scientific papers. There can be no question concerning the possibility of fraud on Verrill's part in publicizing the giant octopus.

Also on February 14, the Connecticut, New Haven Register published an article entitled "Octopus for Yale", written by A. Hyatt Verrill, the Professor's son. Here the junior Verrill praised his father for his work on proving the legends of the Kraken to be based on the real giant squids, and stated that not until the current winter had any marine animal approaching the "Kraken" in size been discovered. He reported that preservatives had been sent to Webb in Florida, and that portions of the body of the animal were expected in New Haven shortly.

On February 23 the specimens arrived at Yale. On that same day Professor Verrill wrote two letters of retraction, one subsequently published in Science for March 5, the other in the New York Herald for March 7th.

In these letters he stated that he had just received some large masses of exterior integument preserved in formalin, in sizes from three to ten inches thick, elastic, very tough and hard to cut. The samples were

composed mostly of tough cords and fibers of white elastic connective tissue that were interlaced and bound together with irregular cavities and canals in some places. Little oil was present in the tissues. (Emphasis added)

Verrill concluded that these structures resembled specimens from some cetaceans, and that the carcass found in Florida could not have been an octopus, but must have been a vertebrate!

However, he was unable to identify the huge, baglike form as any particular part of any particular whale or of any other creature known to be large enough to have such a massive covering. He expressed himself as being puzzled as to how the mass could have been attached to any whale. Nor, of course, could he account for the absence of any substantial amount of oil in the tissue. Whale blubber contains great amounts of oil, even after a whale has been beached for a long time. The difference in the amounts of oil in the tissues of whales and cephalopods is quite striking.

Both letters of retraction ended with the statement that he had based his original opinion on the general form and appearance as shown in the photographs, and on the statements concerning the existence of "stumps" of alleged arms. Verrill dismissed the "stumps" as bogus.

At the National Museum, Professor Frederic Augustus Lucas, a specialist in anatomy and paleontology, examined the specimens sent by Dr. Webb and sent the following comment to Science: "Professor Verrill would be justified in making a much more emphatic statement than that the structure of the masses of integument from the 'Florida Monster' resembles blubber, and the creature was probably related to the whales. The substance looks like blubber, nothing more nor less. There would seem to be no better reason for supposing that it was in the form of a 'baglike structure' than for supposing that stumps of arms were present. The imaginative eye of the untrained observer can see much more than is visible to anyone else." The last sentence, of course, is a slap at Dr. Webb and the many others who had personally examined the carcass and provided photographs showing the size and shape.

In the same issue of Science, March 19, Professor Verrill published a follow-up letter describing his more detailed studies of the specimens. "I have made additional studies of the specimens, received, which confirm the cetacean affinities more definitely. The extreme firmness and toughness of the thick elastic masses of integument show that the structure must have been intended for resistence to blows and to great pressure and could not have pertained to any part of an animal where mobility is necessary. They are composed of a complex of strong elastic connective tissue fibers, like those of cetaceans. There are no muscular fibers present in any parts sent. This lack of muscular tissue and the resistance of the integument are sufficient to show that the creature could not have been a cephalopod, for in that group a highly contractile muscular tissue is essential."

"The structure found is closer to that of the integument of the upper part of the head and nose of a sperm whale than to that of any other structures known to me. It is probable, therefore, that the great bag-shaped mass represents merely the whole upper part of the head of such a creature."

Verrill went on to suggest that the mass may have been a diseased or grotesquely over grown nose attached to the skull of a sperm whale. This rather extreme "explanation" was the best he could do to account for the unarguable size and general shape of the mass, even though Verrill was, as we have already noted, a foremost authority on anatomy and taxonomy.

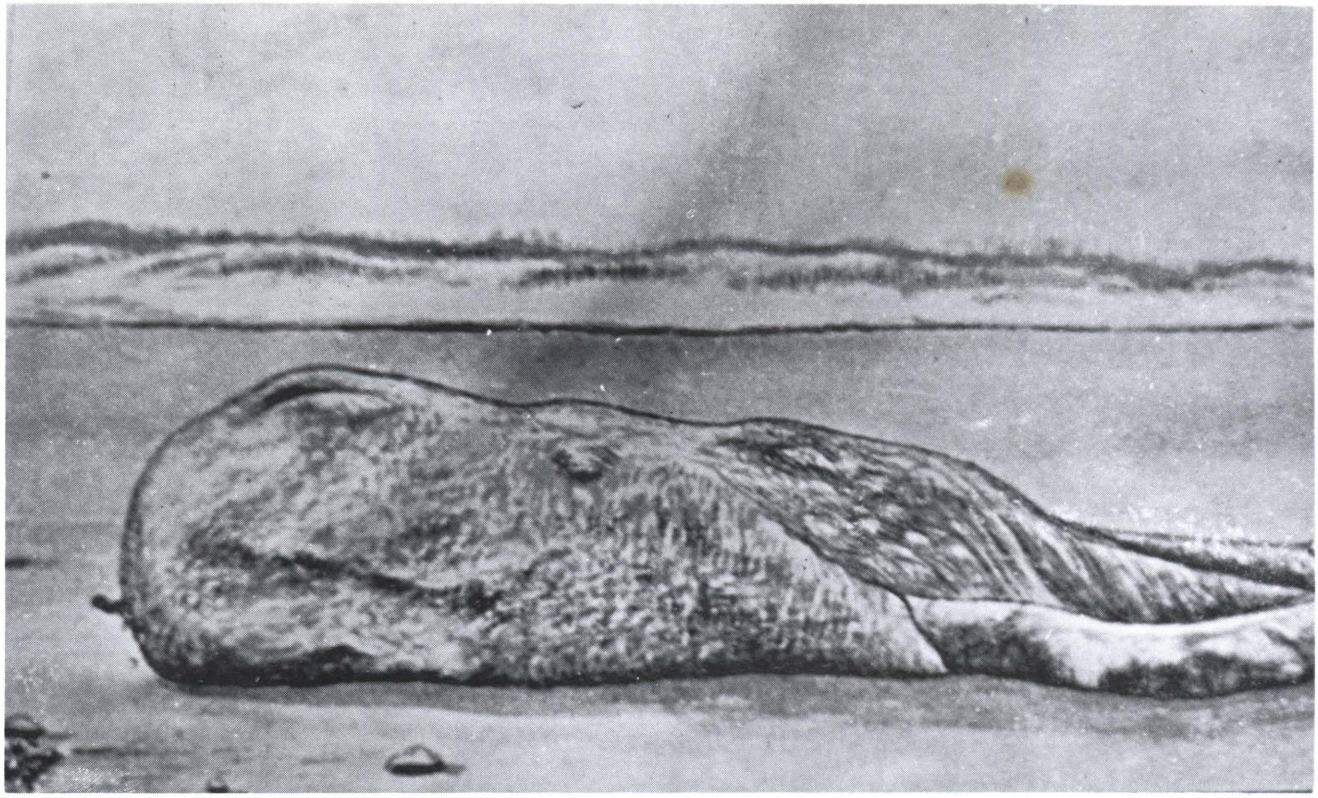
Dr. Webb was at his home in Florida when he received the verdict on his "octopus." One may well imagine his emotions as he once again attempted to get the "experts" to remove themselves from their well insulated offices and to see the strange carcass for themselves. In his last known letter on the subject of the "octopus", dated March 17, he addresses himself to Dall as follows: "As you already know Prof. Verrill now says our strange animal cannot be a cephalopod and that he cannot say to what animal it belongs. I do not see how it can be any part of a cetacean as Prof. V. says you suggest. It is simply a great bag and I do not see how it could have been part of a whale.

"Now that I have had it brought six miles up the beach it is out of the way of the tide and the drifting sand and will have a chance to cure or dry up somewhat. If it were not for the soft mass of the viscera which was so difficult to remove, that we left it, there would be but little odor. As it is there is no great amount.

"Where can I purchase the Formaldehyde for this by the dozen?"

This letter ended Dall's involvement in the controversy.

Verrill wrote the final chapter in his involvement by making two more retractions of his initial octopus identification. The first, in the American Journal of Science, was a general retraction. It is noteworthy that in a footnote to this retraction several other zoologists who had examined the photographs and the tissue samples still believed that the creature might belong to some unknown genus of cephalopod closely related to the Octopus. Of the integument, Verrill writes thus: "Some large irregular canals permeate the inner and less dense portions of the thick masses. These may have contained blood vessels originally. From the inner surface of some of the pieces large cords of elastic fibers proceed inward. These now hang loosely from the masses of integument. Dr. Webb states that they were found attached on all sides to a long saccular organ which occupied most of the central cavity of the great mass."



Side view of carcass, showing what appears to be three stumps of tentacles.
Based on a photograph taken December 7, 1896.

Verrill also notes in passing that whalers could not identify the mass as any part of a known whale. Whalers are, of course, very practical anatomists in a manner of speaking, in that they literally make a living by knowing which parts of a whale are most valuable.

The American Naturalist, April 1897, presented the last formal retraction of the octopus identification and repeated the "sperm whale nose" hypothesis. Here Verrill altered the story slightly, in that the nose, he surmised, had its original shape changed rather drastically by mutilation. Photographs taken of the underside of the thicker region had shown an irregular roughness extending forward, but not quite to the end. This may have been the point where the mass was attached to the skull of the whale, but it is most probably simply caused by abrasion against sand and rocks. Included in this article were two illustrations drawn by his son, based on photographs taken on December 7. The retraction, which marked Verrill's exit from the drama, was summed up in this sentence: "That it came from the head of a creature like a sperm whale in structure is the only one that that seems plausible from the facts now ascertained." In fairness to Verrill, we should point out that he never positively identified the carcass as a whale or part thereof. He simply stated that the evidence strongly indicated as much, and that there was, in his opinion, no evidence to suggest a cephalopod.

Some twenty years later, Hyatt Verrill was to write that upon examination of the tissues of the carcass it appeared that, whatever the creature may have been, it was not an unknown cuttlefish as had been assumed. He added that no scientist at that time was able to guess what animal the tissue samples came from.

This version is, as we have shown, quite at odds with the series of published statements by Verrill (senior) and Lucas. Nor does Hyatt Verrill allude to his intimate knowledge of the affair, such as the newspaper articles he wrote or his illustrations for his father's articles. Since Professor Verrill was still alive at this time, it may be that he had softened his "whale nose" views somewhat and chose to use his son to make the announcement in a very circumspect manner.

As to the fate of the carcass, all we know of it is that it was dragged six miles to a railroad terminal near the beach, fenced about to protect it from the drifting sands, and presumably kept for safekeeping until the Smithsonian or Yale would send for it. Its final disposition remains unknown.

The tissue specimens sent to Yale were also lost. In 1911 the old Peabody Museum was torn down and the collections stored in 15 different locations. Many specimens were lost in the process, and the pieces of the "sea monster" were among the missing.

The entire story faded into oblivion. It again came to public notice when Charles Fort mentioned it (along with a great many other "monsters") in Lo ! Several other fortean writers, such as Eric Frank Russell and John Keel, mentioned the creature in their books, but they merely repeated Fort's account.

In 1957 Dr. Forrest G. Wood, Jr., then Director of

Exhibits and Curator of the Research Laboratories of Marineland, Florida, came upon a yellowed newspaper clipping telling of the giant octopus found on a beach near St. Augustine. The report aroused Dr. Wood's interest and he began a purely personal, but nevertheless quite serious, project to investigate the story. After several inquiries to the Curator of Mollusks at the Smithsonian, Dr. Wood succeeded in getting permission for Dr. Joseph F. Gennaro, Jr. to examine the specimens. Then Gennaro was permitted to cut away a small portion of the preserved tissue in order to make a precise study of it using modern methods of microscopic analysis.

It was a piece of pure luck that got Dr. Gennaro his sample, for shortly thereafter the container with the only remaining sample of the creature's body was lost. This, again, occurred during a "move" at the Smithsonian. First the Yale sample, then the Smithsonian sample. It almost makes one wonder....

Dr. Gennaro prepared the tissue of the "Florida Monster" for examination together with control specimens from a squid and an octopus. Under normal microscopic examination of the slides no identifiable cellular arrangement was discerned, nor was there any particular feature observed in the control tissues. But when he used polarized light to illuminate the tissues, Gennaro observed similar patterns in the connective tissue of all three samples. He concluded that the "monster" tissue was similar to that of the known octopus tissue, had no similarity to the connective tissue of the squid, and absolutely no structural pattern in common with mammalian (whale) tissue. Histological analysis had settled the issue. The scientific Court of Appeals, some sixty-six years after the "crime", had ruled in favor of Dr. Webb and the Giant Octopus.

There is a postscript to this story that is in some respects even more curious and convoluted than the events recounted above. In 1971 Wood and Gennaro co-authored an article entitled "An Octopus Trilogy" which appeared in three parts beginning with the March 1971 issue of Natural History. The trilogy covered the history of the giant octopus, but did not include Gennaro's histological analysis because it was not yet completed.

Although the article was written in a straightforward manner, the editors of Natural History chose to give it the tongue-in-cheek treatment. In the section of the journal giving biographical information about the authors, the reader was told that Dr. Wood spends his spare time watering his bonsai. A bonsai, of course, is a dwarf tree that requires extremely small amounts of water. Gennaro is shown in a trick photo in which one of his legs is a mere bone, devoid of flesh. The response from the readers, or at least that which the journal chose to print, was entirely whimsical. All of this left Dr. Wood very upset, and he fired off an angry letter to the editors—which they declined to print. Apparently Gennaro did not feel so strongly about the matter, and this is something that has rather strained the relationship between the two, judging from comments Wood has made concerning the Natural History affair. Gennaro did, however, publish a summary of the giant octopus story two years later in the March 1973 Argosy. In this article he detailed the tissue analysis and summed it up thus: "The chemical constituents of the monster's collagen were of the type found in the octopus, and none of this type of tissue existed in the squid at all."

The result of the frivolous editorial presentation of the Natural History article was to reinforce the belief that the entire story was a hoax and to further confuse the issue. Even the Ocean Citation Journal Index, a publication listing abstracts of all articles dealing with oceanography, listed the finding as a giant squid instead of a giant octopus. But the giant octopus was taken seriously by Jaques Cousteau. In his Octopus and Squid, he recounted reports made by fishermen who sighted a giant squid-like creature and mentioned an expedition that had been formed for the purpose of obtaining photographs of these creatures. Some pictures were obtained showing a very large but otherwise indefinite streak of brown flesh at depths of 300 to 600 feet.

There is another aspect to this story which deserves at least a passing comment. The original research I did on the Giant Octopus was for a paper I was required to write as part of the academic requirements for my Bachelor of Science degree. It was necessary to collect all of the published material as well as the voluminous personal correspondence, photographs, drawings, etc., and everything else pertaining to the Octopus saga. A task I thought would take no more than three months actually took three years to complete. This research was impeded by the Smithsonian which insisted in the course of several exchanges that the Natural History article was based largely on imagination and fantasy, and which refused to make available or really even acknowledge the existence of the important Webb-Dall correspondence. Although I was finally able to locate all of this material, I did so by adopting the mentality and approach of a police detective searching for evidence apparently being deliberately kept from view. (Editor's note: Mr. Mangiacopra has made available for the SITU files a complete set of the pertinent letters, photographs, and other material upon which his article is based. His manuscript contained 36 citations and references, but these have been omitted in the interest of conserving space.)

BIGFOOT IN NEW JERSEY

By Robert E. Jones

Reports of Bigfoot sightings in Northwestern New Jersey continue to roll in. To date we have received 28 eye-witness accounts, but we have yet to find any physical evidence. The list of witnesses, however, does contain a number of what may be called "quality" witnesses with detailed reports. Two of the most recent sightings took place in daylight. In one case a man saw the creature cross the road (a cloverleaf of

a highway) in front of his car while he was driving to work. The second sighting was made by a man taking a solitary stroll through the woods. This witness had never heard of Bigfoot and had no idea of what the animal was when he saw it.

Thanks to fine cooperation on the part of the local news media, the police, and a number of Sussex County residents our study of the Bigfoot sightings has been kept somewhat unpublicized. This has allowed us to keep the effort going without having to cope with the problems introduced when sensational stories are circulated. And it is for this reason that I must once again decline to give specific names, places and other details of these sightings.

As of this writing, a field study group is being organized in order to facilitate gathering more information about the possible presence of one or more of the animals in this area. We wish to go beyond the basic process of collecting reports and interviewing witnesses, and putting people in the field is the next logical step in this direction. To this end we are selecting a group of SITU members who have expressed an interest in this type of activity on their Membership Participation Questionnaire, or who have in some other way indicated a desire to help investigate the local Bigfoot phenomenon. We hope to put groups of investigators into the field to gather data about the topography and geography of the areas in question, and to carry out other tasks with a view to securing solid evidence about the creatures that are giving rise to the Bigfoot reports. Considering the proximity to SITU Headquarters, the Board of Governors has made an extra allocation of funds toward the necessary purchase of additional equipment to facilitate this investigation.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

Editor's Note. The dissertation that follows began as a rather simple exchange of letters between the author and the editor concerning the validity of Ivan Sandersons's hypothesis of the Vile Vortices. Mr. Whammond seemed convinced that Sanderson was indeed on to something, and over the space of a few months he produced, in installments, a manuscript of something like 13,000 words, plus numerous illustrations, in a tight little hand written effort to vindicate Sanderson. We were somewhat nervous about publishing all this, because of the unusual length of the article and because of the rather technical nature of much of the argument. On the other hand, Mr. Whammond has produced something that deals directly with the matter of the Vile Vortices, and we recognize the need for placing it in the record. It is unlikely that any other publication would even consider printing it. On another level, "The Dodecated Globe" can be read without reference to Sanderson and the Vortices. It is, for those readers with some background in mathematical science, a fascinating conglomeration of unusual ways of expressing a variety of physical laws and observations, all pressed into service to show that Sanderson's vortices are not only possible, but actually probable. The article will be serialized.

THE DODECATED GLOBE

by William H. Whammond

From time immemorial sailors have returned with strange tales of the sea, which were usually attributed to "over consumption of grog" or "lapse of memory due to length of voyage and hardships suffered." Quite surprisingly, with the advent of modern navigation and communication systems operated by better-educated seamen, such strange tales did not cease. Rather, they merely became sooner reported and more accurately documented. This led to a gradual realization that such tales seemed to focus on certain regions of the globe, rather than being evenly spread around the globe as could be expected if such sailor's tales were purely fictional. This dawning realization was first publicly voiced by the British Zoologist Ivan T. Sanderson, who was stationed in the Caribbean region during World War II and encountered many strange instances of anomalous activities there. Moreover, unlike other people, Sanderson's duties forced him to make a thorough and open-minded study of such "anomalous activities," in an attempt to separate them from instances of "enemy espionage and submarine activity."

After World War II Sanderson's findings were published and he referred to the region he was most familiar with as the "Bermuda/Florida/Puerto Rico Triangle," which is rather misleading because it is not centered on Bermuda and its shape has been found to be more of an elongated lozenge or ellipse than a triangle. Now usually when someone dies, the public loses interest in him, his ideas and his exploits. Yet although Ivan Sanderson has been dead for over two years, paradoxically public interest in the anomalous regions (or "foul foci" as I propose calling them) first described by him has, if anything, vastly increased.

Surely this unusual continuance of public interest is some sort of an indication that Sanderson's theories have a certain validity and viability? Such was my thinking as I happened to read over the latest revision of Sanderson's theories. In this revision he had included both the North and South poles as anomalous areas, thus increasing the number of anomalous areas worldwide from 10 to 12, and he

mentioned that all such anomalous areas were "72° apart" from one another. Now, normally my reaction would have been the same as anyone else's. I'd have thought, "funny, 72° equals six times twelve," and left it at that. Instead, by pure coincidence, I just happened to have been studying the principles of Geodesic Domes as developed by Dr. R. B. Fuller, America's "Genius of the Geodesic Dome." In short, I'd become a "domo-sapiens" and so I immediately recognized the 12 and 72° as being (respectively) the vertices and face angles of a spherical icosahedron!

The latter is the 5th of the 5 regular "solid body" shapes known to the ancients as the Platonic Solids, and is usually referred to by the short name icosa. (Regular merely means that its sides are identical in every way.) Due to this coincidence, I suddenly came to realize that Sanderson really was equi-positioning the globe into a spherical icosa as in figure (2), consisting of 20 equal spherical triangles, meeting at 12 vertices and having angles at 72°.

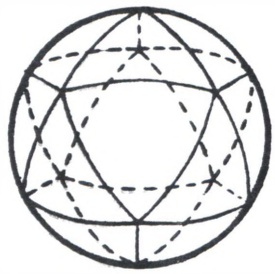


Fig. (2)

This may appear to be a complicated shape, but that is only because it is so totally unfamiliar. Look again at figure (2). There is a Northern "umbrella" or tent consisting of five triangular panels or petals. There is a Southern umbrella or tent, identical but inverted. Sandwiched between those two "umbrellas" there is a row of ten more triangular panels. Also, the grid of triangles on the rear of the globe, shown "phantom" in the illustration, is identical to the grid pattern on the front of the globe except that it too is inverted.

Once the icosa is mentally broken down into this convenient image of two umbrellas sandwiching a ring of ten triangles, it becomes quite simple to visualize. Furthermore, if one could "file down" each spherical triangle of figure (2) until it became completely flat, one would have the normal (non-spherical) icosa of figure (3) wherein each triangular facet would have angles of only 60 . It is interesting to note that such a faceted icosa can be unfolded to form the layout of figure (4). This ingenious way of turning a sphere into a flat surface was first proposed by Dr. R. B. Fuller as a replacement for the Mercator map projection, and is the subject of his U.S. patent, number 2,393,676 of January 29, 1946.

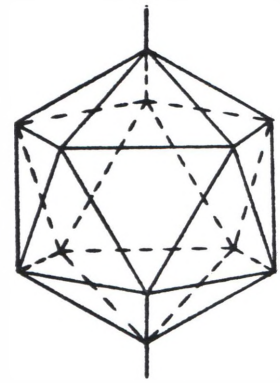


Fig. (3)

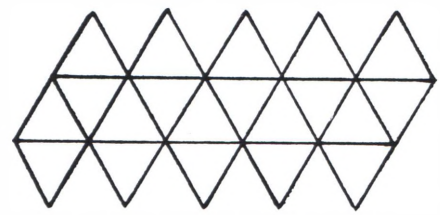


Fig. (4)

It was the complete lack of any sketches in Sanderson's articles which delayed recognition that he was actually equi-partitioning the globe into an icosa of "anomalous foci" or Vile Vortices, as he called them, with one focus corresponding to each of the 12 icosa vertices.

Once it had been realized that an icosa was involved, the obvious question was what could possibly equipartition the globe in such a symmetric manner? I realized that equipartitioning is far from rare in nature. There are the divisions of the tortoise's shell, and there are the scales of fish. Better examples still are Chladni's Sand Figures, which are described in most college level physics textbooks. These figures are formed by sprinkling sand on a horizontal metal plate standing on a vertical stem. When the edge of the plate is "bowed" with a violin bow, the plate vibrates and so shifts the sand to form little sand dunes at the nodes or places of no vibration. An orderly and symmetric equipartitioning of the metal plate by the sand ridges usually occurs. A similar equipartitioning occurs when a drum head is struck. In fact, the famed steel bands of the Carribean "tune" their drums by chiseling along the equipartitioning nodes on the drum head with a chisel and hammer.

Consequently, there did not seem to be anything basically absurd about the notion that the globe could equi-partition itself. This is particularly so when one considers the great variety of vast forces in action. Surely it is reasonable to expect these forces to "fight it out" amongst themselves and possibly end up with some form of modus vivendi such as equi-positioning of the globe.

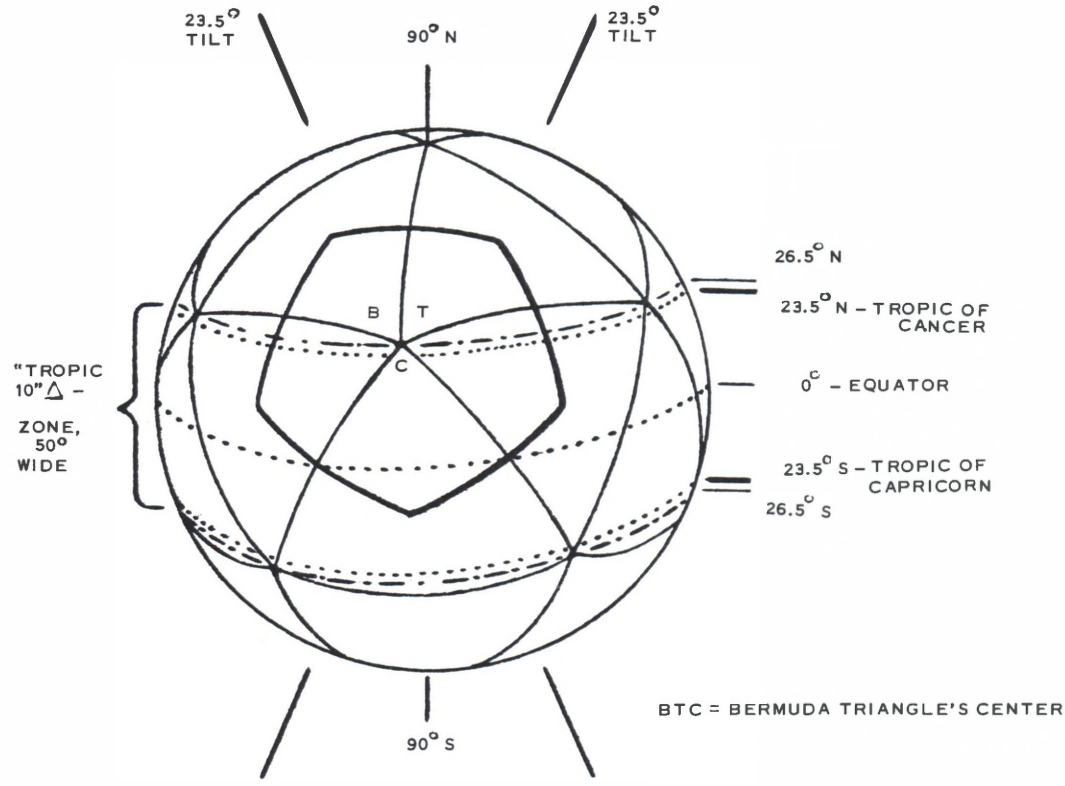


Fig. (1)

Sanderson and Dr. John Carstiou had suggested that rotating masses of water may cause this equipositioning and at first I thought that they were referring to cyclones, but it appears that this is not all they had in mind. Certainly there is quite a lot of circulating water, such as the Gulf Stream and the Humboldt Current. For instance, if the Gulf Stream flows from Florida to Ireland, it is axiomatic that it must return by some path or other. In sum, it must represent a circulation. Then we must not overlook the fact that the entire weight of air above us exerts a pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch, which is the same pressure that would be exerted by a column of water 34 feet high. So if you have an air cyclone of 70 miles diameter, that is equivalent to a "flywheel" of water 70 miles in diameter and 34 feet high. Plus, of course, whatever depth of sea water it drags along with it. That is some flywheel! And that is also quite a formidable gyroscope, in the bargain.

The stupendous mass of this flywheel may more than make up for its slow rotation. Obviously, nobody has ever tested a flywheel of anything approaching that size. And by "tested" I mean spun that many atoms all at once to see if they produce any gravitational or other effect, just as the spinning Earth does. But again, Sanderson and Carstiou did not seem to have only cyclones in mind. It seems possible that there is a gradual drift or circulation in the Earth's oceans due to the vast difference in peripheral speed between the Equator and the Poles. Note the radical change in inclination of 138°11" between the Equatorial and the Polar icosa "petals" and also the Coriolis and gyroscopic forces developed, and so forth. It would be interesting to spin a transparent sphere full of water and observe what would happen in this case, without any land to get in the way. Any tendency to "circulation" or "equipositioning" could easily be observed by stroboscope and would be much swifter than having some gyrodynamicist try to calculate the resulting flow patterns.

Finally, there is another possible cause of Sanderson's Vile Vortices which he does not seem to have realized, namely, the molten rock or magma deep within the Earth. In many ways this would seem an ideal candidate for producing circulation or "rotation" as Sanderson and Carstiou called it. For one thing, it is very massive. Also, there are no land continents to obstruct its circulation. It is capable of hosting magnetic and magnetohydrodynamic effects, etc., in the same manner that current circulating through a coil produces a magnetic field through the coil. If rotation of the Earth gives rise to some sort of equipartitioned circulation of its water surface, as speculated, then there should also arise a similar equipartitioned circulation system within the Earth's molten magma.

Unfortunately, not much is known about the Earth's interior. So far as the author is aware, Isaac Newton assumed that the gravitational force of the Earth was entirely due to its mass, without any increment due to its rotation. The British scientist Cavendish devised an experiment to weigh the Earth using Newton's gravity formula. He found the average density to be 5.5 times the density of water. As the surface soil and rock has a density much smaller than 5.5, it follows that the Earth's core material must be much more dense than 5.5, otherwise the total density of the Earth could not average out to 5.5 times the density of water. Aside from these semi-ancient experiments, about all that has been done is to fire a few explosive shots during geologic prospecting. The time taken for the resulting shock wave to bounce back from "something" below is used to estimate the depth of that "something" below the surface on the assumption that the shock waves have travelled in a straight line. And this last assumption is not very realistic considering that we know that radio, radar and light waves can be refracted and reflected all over the map! However, the "shot" method is obviously better than nothing and has revealed enough to generate some theories. For instance, the Yugoslav scientist Mohorovicic believed that there was an abrupt discontinuity between solid and liquid rock, only about 25 miles down, as I recall, and the U.S. Project Mohole was set up during the International Geophysical Year with the intention of drilling down to this discontinuity. Unfortunately, project Mohole had to be discontinued due to lack of funds. Or, as some wag has suggested, it was cancelled in order to avoid any misunderstanding with China. The upshot of all this is that our knowledge of the Earth's interior remains pitifully primitive to this day.

Some people have even proposed that the Earth is hollow, though such a suggestion is usually met with howls of derision. This is a surprising attitude in view of the fact that there is a gross lack of actual knowledge of the Earth's interior. Also, it is a well established fact that rotation implies centrifuging action. All a scientist has to do is to sit down and write a paper proving that a solid body of density 5.5 times that of water is not equivalent to a hollow body of some greater density. No doubt there will be a similarly derisive reception to the suggestion being made here that the Earth equipartitions itself into "circulation foci" that may be responsible for unusual occurrences.

And finally, there is Professor Tuzo Wilson of Toronto with his theory that the world is divided up into "tectonic plates" nudging each other and producing continental drift. It would be interesting to know exactly what is under those plates and whether there is any evidence of a torsional (rotational) tendency being imposed on the plates.

This brings up a peculiar incident. When I first assembled the icosa on to the Globe (fig. 1) I was naturally very excited to note how closely the equatorial belt of 10 icosa-triangles coincided with the "Tropic Zones" of Cancer and Capricorn. However, I had the uneasy feeling that I had "seen it all before." It took a while to recall the connection, but when it came to me it was quite astonishing: the canals of Mars!

I haven't seen any sketches of the "canals" of Mars since my schooldays, but to my recollection they seemed to partition the planet into roughly equal chunks. It would be interesting to know how many chunks and whether there was any evidence of an icosa or other regular pattern. Possibly Prof. Wilson's theory is also applicable to other planets such as Mars, and the so-called canals could be the outlines of tectonic plates. Infrared radiation escaping around such plates may be what has been seen by astronomers and interpreted as canals. There are some who would object that infrared radiation is not visible. We should recall the incredulity which met the claim made by the astronauts that they could see a train on the surface of the Earth from their vantage point 200 miles above. It was later demonstrated that they were indeed viewing the train, through a "lens" of air 200 miles thick. Similarly, I would hesitate to pronounce a hasty judgment on the possibility of "seeing" infrared radiations from Mars which have been refracted and frequency modulated by passing through the distortions and thermal quivering of two atmospheres, and then ricocheted around a bunch of prisms and lenses in a telescope. (to be continued)

BOOK REVIEWS

Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman. The Unidentified, New York: Warner Books, P. O. Box 690, New York, NY 10019, $1.75 postpaid.

While the extraterrestrial hypothesis continues to gain ground with the general public and an increasing number of scientists, some of the most perceptive ufologists have been giving it a very searching second look. The cause of this reconsideration lies in what may be called the ugly facts of Ufology: (1) The size and shape of reported UFOs shows an almost infinite variation. In the largest collection of UFO photographs extant, for example, only four can definitely be identified as representing similarly shaped objects. (2) The physical appearance of humanoids associated with UFOs exhibits a similarly haphazard distribution. (3) The literature of folklore dealing with fairies, gremlins, gnomes and so forth shows very clear affinities to the modern accounts of encounters with "extraterrestrial" beings. (The puzzling wave of "airship" sightings in the nineteenth century seems to provide an interface between the modern humanoid cases and the traditional "little people" stories.) (4) It is becoming increasingly — and embarrassingly — obvious that there is indeed a psychic component in many UFO cases, including evidence of telepathy, clairvoyance, etc.

The authors have attempted a synthesis of these apparently disparate and unassimilable observations. To a great extent this book is a logical extension of the work pioneered by Vallee in Passport to Magonia, and by Keel in his remarkable series of books. But the real philosophical basis of the Coleman-Clark hypothesis is Jung's idea that UFOs are quasi-objective projections from the "collective unconscious." Those who are familiar with Jung's very abstract writings on ufology will find that this book fleshes out the abstractions with a wealth of pertinent detail. The authors are especially compelling when they demonstrate that there is a well defined Jungian archetypal scenario common to many of the humanoid encounters, and that this same scenario has been played out time and again in the fairy lore.

I have a number of misgivings about all this. For example, the validity of Jung's concepts either as a psychology or as a basis for practical therapy is hardly a settled matter. And even if one were to grant this much to Jung, the application of his theories in the manner urged by the authors would seem obviated by the absence of a "flying saucer syndrome" in the neurotic or psychotic population. (See Pursuit for April 1974) The authors cite the Schwarz study in another context without realizing what violence it and other similar psychological inquiries do to their thesis. Nandor Fodor's conclusions on the psychodynamics of poltergeist manifestations are quoted to support the argument for the existence of a psychokinetic effect. The reader is not told that Fodor was a Freudian through and through, and that his lucid account of the dynamics of poltergeist and other related psychic events was based entirely on Freudian, not Jungian, analysis. In general, the attempts to analyze the UFO phenomenon in "conventional" scientific terms are consistently denigrated throughout the book. This particular bias happens to clash head-on with my personal methodology and bias.

Nevertheless, The Unidentified clearly qualifies as "must reading" for ufologists, students of psychic phenomena, and folklorists. RJD

Other Worlds, Other Universes by Brad Steiger and John White, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, New York, is definitely a cut above the sort of book we have become accustomed to seeing from the prolific Mr. Steiger. No doubt Mr. White had something to do with this, but, happily, neither author is much in evidence here. They have acted as editors and commentators in a very restrained manner, collating a series of excerpts from the writings of 16 theologians, mystics, scientists, and so forth, into a fascinating overview of ideas concerning the possibility of alternate universes or existences. The real value of this book lies in the manner in which nearly every approach to this extremely speculative and provocative issue is presented. We hear from "the departed" through spirit mediums, Timothy Leary gives us the benefit of his drug induced experiences, and even the ubiquitous Ivan Sanderson has his piece to say. Whatever our objections may be to any particular view or method of obtaining that view of an alternate existence, the sum total of the statements is impressive. The comments by Steiger and White serve to place the various parties in historical and philosophical perspective. This is a refreshing change from the endless boring cant found in nearly all other occult and spiritualist literature. RJD

Since the phenomenal success of The Bermuda Triangle by Charles Berlitz, the book stalls have been packed with new additions to the Triangle literature. At last count there were no less than 11 of these, and we know of at least several more currently in preparation. Here is a brief summary of the Triangle books available at the moment.

1. Kusche, Lawrence David. The Bermuda Triangle Mystery — Solved, New York, Harper & Row, 1975, $10.00. Through the use of newspaper accounts, weather bureau reports, and other official documents Kusche effectively scuttles the Triangle. Highly recommended.

2. Sanderson, Ivan T., Invisible Residents, New York, Avon, 1973, 95 cents. Although the whole "vile vortices" business is now in doubt, this classic should not be missed. The book covers a great deal else, including light wheels, underwater UFOs, and time anomalies.

3. Gaddis, Vincent, Invisible Horizons, New York, Ace Star, 1973, $1.50. Vincent Gaddis gave the Triangle its name in the February 1964 issue of Argosy. Only one chapter of this book is devoted to the Triangle. The rest deals with other mysteries of the sea.

4. Ebon, Martin, Ed., The Riddle of the Bermuda Triangle, New York, Signet, 1975, $1.50. Despite some dubious material, such as the disappearing Eskimo village, this book is a fairly objective account of the Triangle and its alleged mysteries. It presents a number of contributors, including Gaddis, Sanderson, Joseph Goodavage, Kusche and others.

5. Berlitz, Charles, The Bermuda Triangle, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1974, $7.95. The fact that this is a runaway "best seller" doesn't help a whole lot. And yes, the Robert "Durand" mentioned in Chapter Four is SITU's own Robert Durant.

6. Spencer, John Wallace, Limbo of the Lost, New York, Bantam Books, 1974, $1.50. Are UFOs grabbing our aircraft and ships? Spencer thinks so and tries to prove it, but falls a bit short of his goal.

7. Winer, Robert, The Devil's Triangle, New York, Bantam Books, 1974, $1.50. Despite some errors, this book is still a fairly objective study of the Triangle.

8. Jeffrey, Adi-Kent Thomas, The Bermuda Triangle, New York, Warner Paperback Library, 1975, $1.75. A really spectacular cover. The material inside the cover is what bothers me.

9. Smith, Warren, Triangle of the Lost, New York, Zebra Books, 1975, $1.75.

10. Nichols, Elizabeth, The Devil's Sea, New York, Award Books, 1975, $1.25.

11. Jeffrey, Adi-Kent Thomas, Triangle of Terror and Other Eerie Areas, New York, Warner Paperback Library, 1975, $1.50. These last three are bummers. But its your money. David Weidl

MEMBERS' FORUM

DONATIONS

The Society has always received donations, especially in the early days when Ivan Sanderson contributed heavily to keep us afloat. In recent years the increasing number of memberships and the sale of back issues has kept the Society on a more or less break-even basis, though there has been little money left over for a variety of "nice to have" uses. For example, it took us quite a while to accumulate the funds to purchase a copying machine. This is a piece of office equipment that can hardly be called a luxury for an organization such as ours. It was in this context that we offered to "sell" space in the October 1975 issue of Pursuit as a means of generating donations.

Frankly, the response to this appeal has us somewhat flabbergasted. What we envisioned (hopefully) as a large number of small donations has in fact developed into a small number of small donations, plus two whoppers. Furthermore, of the ten contributors, five directed us to print only their membership numbers by way of identification and acknowledgment. This situation has presented us with something of a problem, although it is one of those rare happy problems, namely, how to set the type and the format for announcing the contributions. The original offer was an exchange of one column inch for $15, and we expected to print names and addresses and perhaps even a short message in that space. But devoting a column inch to nothing more than a four digit number strikes us as really quite awkward. And then, what shall we do about the gentleman who, at $15 per inch, "bought" nearly seven and a half pages? And what about the member who contributed $100 and a tractor type lawnmower? As a way out of this quandary we have decided to simply list the contributors in accordance with their instructions, together with an indication of the sums contributed.

It goes without saying that the Society is profoundly grateful for these donations.

- Member #1132 contributed $2000
- Anonymous Member contributed $100 and a tractor style lawnmower
- Member #115 contributed $15
- Mr. Richard T. Lee
  912 Davis Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
  contributed $15
- Member #895 contributed $100
- Mr. Robert J. Kleehammer, Member #500
  contributed $20
- Mr. Roy L. Jones, Member #1437 contributed $15
- Member #916 contributed $25
- Member #1614 contributed $20
- Mr. Howard W. Baker contributed $10

CATTLE MUTILATIONS

This is a matter that has received great play in the press over the past year or so, and it has all the earmarks of a whopping big fortean mystery.

The mutilations and depradations of animals recounted in Fort came to mind when we first heard of these cases, but there appears to be a significant difference in several of the elements. Most notable is the fact that in these recent mutilations that have taken place throughout the Southwest and Midwest the job is done with some degree of surgical nicety. Fort's marauders made gross and thoroughly violent attacks on the victims. The apparently ubiquitous UFOs have been reported near the locations of these recent mutilations, and many have fallen back on this catchall to explain the strange events. We would have devoted more space to this matter were it not for the fact that several sources, whom we have good reason to trust, assured us that there is nothing the least bit fortean about the mutilations. These sources must remain unnamed for the moment, and we can pass along only the gist of what they told us. With those provisos, and without any endorsement on SITU's part whatever, here it is: The cattle mutilations are strictly a criminal problem, not a fortean mystery.

In the meantime, the "authorities" and the farmers and cattle ranchers alike have been getting increasingly upset about the continuing mutilations and about their inability to catch the culprits or even to find a shred of evidence connecting the mutilations to any human agency. Or so one gathers from the steady stream of newspaper reports we have been getting. While the UFO theory has some currency, it seems that the favorite suspect in this grisly affair is the "Satanist" acting in concert with a large and widespread network of fellow devil-worshippers. This sort of thing can't be taken too lightly after the Manson Family story. As in all instances of public hysteria, there is a danger of an abuse of justice if some innocent party is singled out as the object of the mob's frustrations.

We raise this particular problem because of some letters we have recently received from Mr. P.E.I. Bonewits, President of the Aquarian Anti-Defamation League, P.O. Box 3720, Minneapolis, MN 55403. The League is composed of individuals who take a serious

interest in the study and practice of witchcraft, pagan religions, neo-Christianity, and so forth. It appears that they have been feeling the pressure and want to forestall a modern version of the witch hunts. Mr. Bonewits asked us to mention his organization and the predicament faced by his members. We are pleased to do this not only as a matter of principle but also because we think his group is taking a very wise and productive approach to the problem in that they are investigating all cases of cattle mutilations. By doing this they hope to marshall all the facts and and thus preclude the possibility of an explosive reaction on the part of a confused and outraged citizenry.

Those of you who enjoyed the article in the January 1975 Pursuit entitled "Pyramids, Satellites and Survival" by M. W. Saunders might care to order a greatly expanded version of his paper which has recently been published. This is titled Destiny Mars, and may be purchased from Downs Books, Caterham, Surrey, England. The price of one pound covers the cost of the booklet and surface mail, but we recommend adding an additional pound (or U.S. currency equivalent) for air mail.

A member writes as follows: "I would very much like to trace the following story, which appeared on "Alcoa Presents" some years back. The story concerned a kind of monster of telepathic ability which first ripped apart a smokehouse, then befriended a young boy. It was chased by angry (and scared) farmers, who trapped it in a box canyon and tried to burn it to death. It was large enough to place the boy on a 13 foot high ledge, and lift him out of a second story window. I seem to remember that it had three toed footprints."

Some good news for those of you who read French. We have received a set of a journal published in Belgium devoted to "chroniques des civilizations disparues." This is a quite serious publication dealing with archeological anomalies. The editors seem favorably disposed to the fortean approach, and except for the language problem Kadath should prove to be a very useful publication for students of the unexplained in the field of archeology. Write to Kadath, 6 Boulevard Saint-Michel, B-1150, Bruxelles, Belgium. A new book by Jacques Vallee has been published in France (and in French). It is called Le College Invisible, and for those of you who can't wait for the English edition it is available from Editions Albin Michel, 22 Rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris, France. An expanded English translation is expected soon from Dutton, New York. And finally, we have received a copy of L'Homme de Neanderthal est Toujours Vivant by Bernard Heuvelmans and Boris Porchnev. This will almost certainly appear soon in translation, and it promises to add much to the ABSM literature.

The latest volume in the "Sourcebook" series is out. This one is called Strange Universe, sub-titled "A sourcebook of curious astronomical observation." Compiler Bill Corliss reports a continuing high level of interest and acceptance of this fortean project on the part of scientists, educators and librarians. Write to the Sourcebook Project, Glen Arm, Maryland, 21057.

A recently published newspaper article quoted just about everybody-who-is-anybody in American ufology as believing that the Central Intelligence Agency is behind those persistent "men in black" stories. For the record, the Society has never been favored with a visit of this sort. Apart from the sensational men in black visitations there is quite a wide range of mischief alleged to have been perpetrated against ufologists and UFO witnesses. One of our members has taken advantage of the current congressional investigations of the C.I.A. to ask certain key members of Congress to make a formal inquiry into these charges. We have their replies on file. In sum, they express interest and concern over this, but want very specific data on incidents. And what they want to know about is not UFOs, as such, but instances of violations of individual civil rights. We must admit that the recent revelations about the clandestine and at time apparently illegal activities of various government agencies give some credence to this chapter of ufological lore, but once again what is required above all is the facts. If you have experienced something of this sort in connection with UFOs, and if you are willing to prepare a sworn statement detailing the experience, we will forward it to the appropriate parties.

Mrs. Sabina W. Sanderson has resigned from the Board of Governors of the Society in order to be able to devote more time to other responsibilities, including the preparation of a biography of the late Ivan T. Sanderson. We are pleased to report, however, that she will continue to serve the Society in an advisory capacity.

Rumors have reached us of an impending breakthrough at Loch Ness. Apparently this has to do with the highly specialized sonar and photographic equipment that has been installed in the Loch and operated off and on for several years. See the April 1974 Pursuit for a description of this equipment and the photograph of the "flipper" and portions of the body of a large unknown animal taken at the Loch with it. We suspect that much more satisfactory and uncontestable pictures have been obtained, and that these are being studied secretly by some sort of "panel of experts." In the meantime, we have received a prepublication copy of Tim Dinsdale's new book, Project Water Horse, Routledge & Kegan Paul, Boston, but it arrived too late for a proper review. The standard, orthodox opinion of the Loch Ness Monster(s) remains that of Dr. Maurice Burton. We quote from his book The Elusive Monster, Rupert Hart-Davis, London, 1961: "My final conclusion is that the phenomenon known as the Loch Ness Monster is a mixture of gas-filled vegetable mats, turbulences caused by gas escaping from faults in the bed of the Loch, commonplace objects including boats and birds seen at a distance and sometimes distorted by mirage effects, waves due to convection currents and to winds, slicks, windrows, otters and deer, and doubtless other things besides."

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