

fantastic

ADVENTURES

VOLUME 2
NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY
1940

Contents

STORIES



Jalu, the Golden Girl of Kalendar, returns once more in Orlin Tremaine's newest story, in the March issue.



Copyright, 1940
ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
608 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
William B. Ziff, Publisher;
B. G. Davis, Editor;
Raymond A. Falmer, Managing Editor
David Vern, Associate Editor
Herman R. Bollin, Art Director

We do not accept responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or artwork. To facilitate handling, the author should inclose a self-addressed envelope with the requisite postage attached, and artists should inclose or forward return postage. Accepted material is subject to whatever revision is necessary to meet requirements. Payment for manuscripts and illustrations will be made at our current rates.

The names of all characters that are used in short stories, serials and semi-fiction articles that deal with types are fictitious. Use of a name that is the same as that of any living person is accidental.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES
FEBRUARY 1940
VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES is published monthly by ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY at 608 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. Entry as second-class matter applied for at the Post Office, Chicago, Ill. under the act of March 3rd, 1879. Subscriptions \$2.40 a year (12 issues); Foreign, \$3.40.

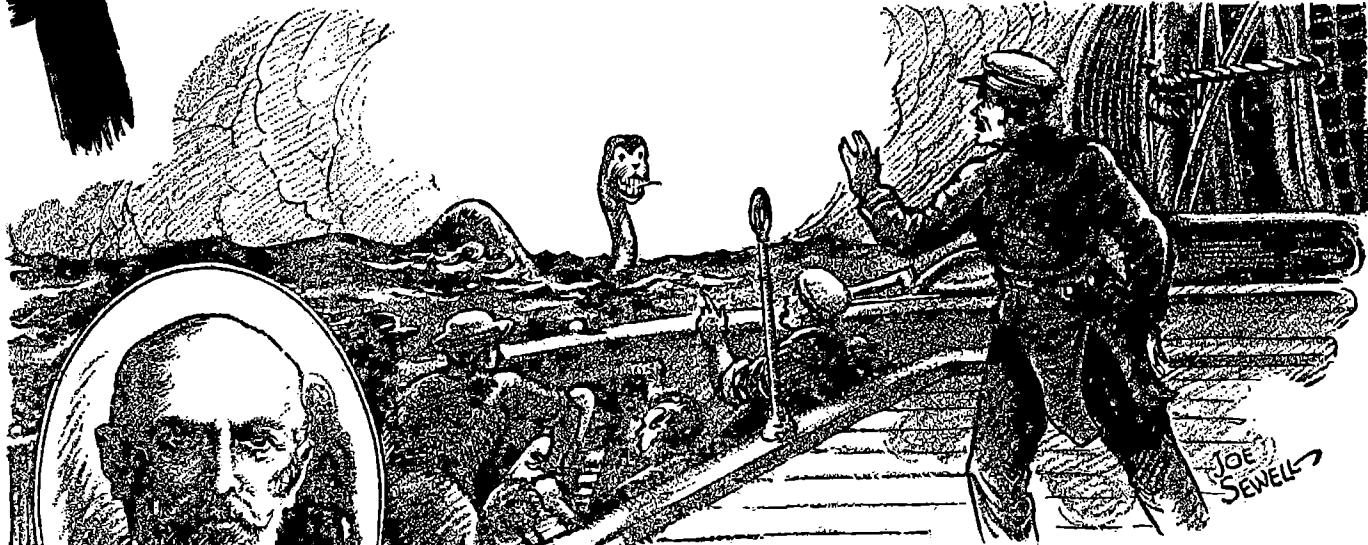
- NEW YORK FIGHTS THE TERMANITES** by Bertrand L. Shurtleff 8
Panic grips New York as the new subway opens the way to a weird underground world; and a horde of ghastly white monsters swarms up to attack.
- THE PRINCE OF MARS RETURNS (Part One of a Two-Part Novel)**..... by Phil Nowlan 28
Dan Hanley landed on Mars, and found himself expected! An ancient legend dogged his every move. But then he met the lovely Lalrin and rebelled.
- LANCELOT BIGGS COOKS A PIRATE**..... by Nelson S. Bond 40
All that stood between the crew of the *Saturn* and death at the hands of a cruel killer was Lancelot Biggs and his chemical theory of cooking.
- THUNOR FLEES THE DEVILS**..... by Russell Storm 48
The flying devils came, and Thunor's tribe fled. But flight was futile, and Thunor determined to return and face the mystery of "four knocks."
- MYSTERY OF THE WHITE RAIDER**..... by Thornton Ayre 58
There seemed nothing human about this awful "white outcast" who raided Square 14. What did he want that demanded such terrible destruction?
- LET WAR GODS CLASH!**..... by Don Wilcox 70
Deep in the bowels of the earth, in an artificial volcano, a pair of war-mad Dictators meet and are forced to fight out their own senseless battles.

FEATURES

- The Editor's Notebook..... 7
Fantastic Hoaxes..... 26
Romance Of The Elements..... 47
Prize Story Contest..... 85
Introducing The Author..... 86
Quiz Page..... 88
Readers' Page..... 89
Life On Pluto..... 97

Front cover painting by Robert Fuqua depicting a scene from *The Prince of Mars Returns*
Back cover painting by Frank R. Paul
Illustrations by Julian E. Krupa and J. R. Hammond

Pantastic



VARIOUS STORIES OF GIANT SEA SERPENTS ATTACKING SHIPS NEAR THE NORTH AMERICAN COAST, APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND DURING THE EARLY 19th CENTURY.

Dr. ALBERT C. KOCH, WHO IN EARLY SUMMER, 1845, EXHIBITED ON BROADWAY IN NEW YORK, A LARGE SKELETON HE CLAIMED TO BE THAT OF A SEA SERPENT . .



MANY NEW YORKERS PAID TO SEE THIS FOSSIL WONDER AND LISTENED TO THE BARKER'S GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF ITS FANTASTIC ORIGIN AND DISCOVERY. THE SKELETON WAS LABELED **HYDRARCHUS SILLIMANNI**. IT WAS 114 FEET LONG.

PROFESSOR WYMAN, AN EXPERT ZOOLOGIST AND ANATOMIST, AFTER A CAREFUL EXAMINATION, STAMPED THE EXHIBIT AS A HOAX. HE PROVED THAT THE SKELETON WAS MADE UP OF BONES FROM **TWO DIFFERENT WHALES**. THIS FINISHED **KOCH'S** EXHIBITION IN AMERICA - ALTHOUGH HE LATER SHIPPED THE FOSSILS TO GERMANY AND EXHIBITED THEM IN BERLIN

HOAXES

By **WILLY LEY**

Dr. Koch's Sea Serpent Hoax excited the people of 1845 and he very successfully exhibited his fraudulent reconstruction of *Hydrarchus Sillimanni*, as he called it, as the real thing and drew from it a quite handsome personal revenue in New York

ILLUSTRATED BY JOE SEWELL

ONE of the most typical Sea Serpent stories, to my mind, is the one contained in a letter written by Mr. William Warburton on September 20th, 1826, to the editor of the Edinburgh Journal of Science in which publication it was printed in volume VI. for the year 1827. In this letter Mr. Warburton related with doubtless sincerity that he, while travelling from Liverpool to New York on the ship *Silas Richards* which arrived in New York on June 15th, 1826, saw what he described as a Sea-Serpent, seen near "George's Bank" five days prior to arrival in America.

The psychologically important part of the letter, however, is not the description of the still mysterious "Sea Serpent" (the existence of which is still neither conclusively proven nor disproved) but a short passage that reads as follows: "I immediately called to the passengers, who were all down below, but only five or six came up. The remainder refused to come up, saying there had been too many hoaxes of that kind already."

It is quite possible that several of these reluctant passengers that refused to look at a rare occurrence even though it presented itself conveniently saw a Sea-Serpent a number of years later. It was only a dead one, to be sure, but of awe inspiring dimensions that could be inspected at leisure.

In early summer 1845 one "Dr." Albert C. Koch exhibited on Broadway in New York a large skeleton of a fossil animal. The skeleton was labeled *Hydrarchus Sillimanni* and "Dr." Koch claimed that it, although extinct, was most certainly related to the "Sea Serpent" of our present time, probably being one of the ancestors of the present group or family.

The skeleton certainly looked that way. It was 114 feet long, definitely of serpentine form, consisting mainly of a long row of vertebrae with a small head, a number of short ribs and incomplete paddles. It was mounted in the typical position familiar to "Dr." Koch from many Sea Serpent reports, resting in a slightly "wavy" position with reared-up head.

Many New Yorkers came and paid good silver pieces to marvel at the fossil wonder, listening to Koch's explanation that this was certainly an ancestor of the reported Sea Serpents and that a study of the fossil remains might shed some light on the identity of the present day undiscovered monster. Unfortunately for "Dr." Koch one of his visitors really studied the fossil bones. The name of this visitor was Wyman and he happened to be an expert zoologist and anatomist. And he soon published an article in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History (November Issue 1845) proving that "these remains never belonged to one and the same individual, and that the anatomical characteristics of the teeth indicate that they are not those of a reptile but of a warm blooded mammal." Professor Wyman also succeeded in discovering what fossil animal had furnished the bones, it was Zeuglodon, an extinct distant relative of the present day whales. "Dr." Koch had stated—truthfully, for a change—that he had collected the bones in Alabama where remains of Zeuglodon have actually been discovered repeat-

edly. Professor Wyman believed that two individuals of Zeuglodon had been pieced together, that was, as was found out later, an understatement, Koch had strung together as many Zeuglodon vertebrae as he could find. After his hoax had been exposed he packed his *Hydrarchus Sillimanni* in solid wooden boxes and shipped them to Dresden. But his glory did not last long there either, the fraud was exposed again. And in addition to all that the famous British paleontologist Gideon A. Mantell shed some light on "Dr." Koch's past in a letter published by the Illustrated London News. After having explained how the Broadway skeleton had been manufactured—to be taken literally: "made by hand"—Mantell continued: "Mr. Koch is the person who, a few years ago, had a fine collection of fossil bones of elephants and mastodons, out of which he made up an enormous skeleton, and exhibited it in the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, under the name of "*Missourium*." This collection was purchased by the trustees of the British Museum and from it were selected the bones which now constitute the skeleton of the Mastodon. . . ."

While Mr. Koch's Sea Serpent hoax, though impressive, was rather short lived, another earlier Sea Serpent Hoax had a long life.

Shortly after the Linnaean Society of Boston had been busily collecting eye witness reports of the so-called New England Sea-Serpent of 1817 until it was proved beyond a doubt that *something* strange and unknown had been swimming around near Gloucester and Ann Harbor one Captain Joseph Woodward—he was probably just as much of a captain as Koch was a doctor—came with an exciting but regretfully insincere Sea Serpent yarn.

He claimed that in May, 1818, his ship, sailing in New England waters, suddenly encountered a huge Sea Serpent. When it appeared it was about 60 feet away from the ship and came closer with astonishing speed. They fired a small cannon ball and a number of musket bullets against the monster and heard them strike, but the animal moved on unaffected. "Captain" Woodward caused his cannon to be loaded again, but before they fired the shot his men became badly frightened and ran away from the loaded cannon to seek shelter. A crash between ship and Sea Serpent seemed inevitable, but "captain" Woodward succeeded in tacking so as to avoid the animal that afterwards continued to pursue them for five hours!

Now if there ever was a story that has the word "hoax" spread all over its entire length it was this one. But, strange to say, it met with much more success than dozens of simple and sincere reports. After being published in several Boston and New York newspapers it was reprinted by the Quarterly Journal of Science, Literature and the Arts of the Royal Institute at London (in vol. VI, 1818), then in Oken's "Isis" and again, *thirty years later* in The Zoologist, (1848) without mentioning the source. From there it was translated into German by Friep for his journal *Notizen* and it might have proceeded to haunt newspapers and journals if W. W. Cooper had not taken the pains to examine its internal evidence and to expose it as a hoax.